



CATOLICA
FACULDADE DE DIREITO
ESCOLA DE LISBOA



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Call for Panels and Papers

European Law Unbound Annual Conference

“Words or Deeds? The European Moment”

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Lisbon, September 1-3, 2026

CONFERENCE THEME

At a time of profound transformation, Europe is navigating the gap between declarations and demonstrations, between articulated values and their practical realization. This year's European Law Unbound Annual Conference invites scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to examine what might be called "the European moment" – a period characterised by both possibility and precarity, where the discrepancy between institutional rhetoric and concrete action is perhaps more visible and consequential than ever before. We welcome contributions from across the field of 'Law in Europe' that help us understand Europe's contemporary predicaments, which often play out against the backdrop of various legal discourses and arrangements.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The Annual Conference is the central activity of ELU-S. Anyone working in the field of 'Law in Europe' broadly conceived can submit individual papers or fully formed panels on any theme or perspective related to 'Law in Europe'.

This conference seeks to stimulate debate on the role of law in addressing current challenges. We aspire to do so by creating an 'unbound' exchange about the future of European law, both organizationally and thematically: everyone who wishes can participate and approach any area of 'Law in Europe' from any desired perspective. We look forward to a scholarly debate on the future of Europe that is intergenerational, inclusive, and methodologically diverse.



SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Five types of submissions are possible: fully formed panels, roundtable discussions, author meets reader sessions, innovative formats sessions, and individual papers. We welcome individual paper submissions but strongly recommend the submission of fully formed panels. The submissions need not be related to the conference theme.

General rules and requirements

- Participation as presenter, chair, and discussant is **restricted to two sessions**.
- The Conference is an in-person event. Anyone wishing to participate, in any capacity, should be prepared to travel to Lisbon.
- The default language for the Conference will be English.
- We strongly recommend that all collective submissions (irrespective of format) include participants from at least two different institutions/organisations.

A. Fully formed panels

Fully formed panels are sessions composed of multiple individual papers organised around a common theme. A session lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. A fully formed panel must meet the following requirements:

- Three to five papers
- One Chair (who may be a paper presenter)
- Discussants (optional)
- A panel title and abstract of 150-250 words
- Paper titles for each paper
- Additional presenters can be added to a fully formed panel at a later stage, provided that the number of papers does not exceed the maximum of five
- You do not need to submit full papers at this stage or by the time of the conference

B. Roundtable discussions

Roundtable discussions are sessions that centre around the discussion of a common theme or topic - academic or non-academic - and that do not have papers presented. A session lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. A roundtable discussion must meet the following requirements:

- Four to Seven Participants
- One Chair
- A roundtable title and abstract of 150-250 words



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C. Author Meets Reader Sessions

Author Meets Reader Sessions foster conversation and debate about one to three recently published academic books. A session lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. An Author Meets Reader Session must meet the following requirements:

- The author(s) of the book(s)
- Two or more discussants
- Books must have been published after 1 January 2025
- Textbooks and Commentaries are ineligible
- An abstract of 150-250 words

D. Innovative Format Sessions

Innovative Format Sessions enable creative and out-of-the box interventions involving, for example, artistic work, poster sessions, or something similar. A session lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. An Innovative Format Session must meet the following requirements:

- A title and abstract of 150-250 words

E. Individual Papers

We also welcome individual submissions on any subject related to law in Europe. After the paper submission is confirmed, it will become part of one of the panels assembled by ELU-S. Individual paper submissions must meet the following requirements:

- A title and abstract of 150-250 words
- Three to five keywords

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Everyone is welcome, regardless of career stage, academic interests, or perspective on European law. The only requirement is **an interest in law in Europe**, be it private law, constitutional law, economic law, criminal law, social law or any other field of law. Participation is not restricted to legal scholars or practitioners. We welcome submissions from scholars from all disciplines (political science, sociology, history, philosophy, etc.) with an interest in law in Europe. We especially welcome submissions from scholars at the early stages of their career and/or under-represented communities.

Participation is possible only for those who have paid their conference fees (fees are due after notification of acceptance of panels and papers). Two types of fees are available: the regular conference fee of €150,- and a discounted fee of €90,- for PhD candidates and participants from non-OECD countries.



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TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

- 15 February:** Call for submissions opens
- 15 April:** Call for submissions closes
- 15 May:** Notifications of acceptance sent
- 15 May:** Registration period opens
- 1 July:** Registration period closes