

Information and Democracy at Work

Conference

26th May 2021

Presentation of the Conference

The internal and external environment at Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) has deeply changed as the result of digitalisation. The importance of information and knowledge becomes greater and the demands for democracy at work shape a reality where information governance and risk management become the center of attention for all implicated parties.

The EU lawmakers have created Directive frameworks imposing obligations to large MNEs regarding their information governance thus contributing to a multifaceted legislative grid.

- The **Directive 89/391** on health and safety at work provides for procedures to prevent security risks and health damages at work. In this process, MNEs shall implicate workers and instigate the social dialogue on health and safety issues.
- The **Recast Directive 2009/38** on the establishment of European Works Councils obliges MNEs operating in at least two EU countries to create and run a transnational social dialogue forum, where issues concerning the international workforce are discussed.
- The **Directive 2014/95** on non-financial information reporting provides for an annual non-information report, in which large MNEs shall present their activity and plans on environmental issues, labour standards adherence and human rights behaviour.
- The **Directive 2019/1937**, on whistleblowing protection, in force in 2021, leads MNEs to establish channels of communication with workers who disclose breaches of EU law. The goal is to protect the workers denouncing MNE abuses.

This expert meeting will provide the floor for **comparative and supplementary study of the four legal instruments**, in order to overview their **results** so far, their future **potential** and their contribution to a **new paradigm of corporate governance**. Information circulation and knowledge sharing are the common grounds for all four frameworks, which, despite their divergent backgrounds, touch the aim of a democratic corporate function.

Program

12h30-13h **Opening and welcoming**

13h00-13h20 **Introduction** by **Auriane Lamine**, Professor at UCLouvain

13h20-13h30 **Introduction of the Sessions** by **Pierre-Olivier de Broux**, Professor at USLB.

First session – The European Works Council Directive 2009/38/EC

13h30-13h50 **Keynote Speaker Filip Dorsemont**, Professor at UCLouvain

13h50-14h10 **Respondent Bruno Demaitre**, EWC Policy Officer at IndustriAll European Trade Union

14h10-14h20 **Question and Answers**

Second session – The Whistleblowing Directive 2019/1937

14h20-14h40 **Keynote Speaker Olivier Leclerc**, Senior Researcher at the CNRS

14h40-15h00 **Respondent Elliot Cobbaut**, Teaching and researching Assistant at UCLouvain

15h00-15h10 **Question and Answers**

15h10-15h20 **Coffee break**

Third session – The non-financial disclosure Directive 2014/95

15h20-15h40 **Keynote Speaker Valeria Pulignano**, Professor at KULeuven

15h40-16h00 **Respondent Fotios Bregiannis**, PhD researcher at UCLouvain

16h00-16h10 **Question and Answers**

Fourth session – The Occupational Safety and Health Directive 89/391

16h10-16h30 **Keynote Speaker Mélanie Schmitt**, Lecturer at Strasbourg University

16h30-16h50 **Respondent Aude Cefaliello**, Researcher at European Trade Union Institute

16h50-17h00 **Questions and Answers**

17h00-17h30 **Conclusion** by **Simon Deakin**, Professor at Cambridge University

This conference is organised by Elliot Cobbaut and Fotios Bregiannis (UCLouvain) and funded by the Fond National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)

Practical information

-Date and time

26th of May 2021 from 13h to 17h30

-Address

Due to the health situation, the conference will take place **online**, by Microsoft Teams.

The link giving access to the event will be transmitted by email to the people registered in the days before the conference.

-Inscription

REGISTRATION FORM Free entrance but **online registration required** before 22th May 2021.

* Your email address is included in our databases. These are used to announce our activities and organize our seminars and study days. In accordance with the General Regulations on the Protection of Personal Data, you can have access to this data and, if necessary, have it corrected or deleted.

* For a Webinar, by validating the registration form, the participant gives his consent to display his name and email address in the list of participants viewed on Microsoft Teams

* Please note that the event will be recorded. The participants agree with the recording and the dissemination.

-Fees

Free, but registration is required.

-Contact

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