



Prof. Dr. Peter-Tobias Stoll and Agata Daszko, LL.M. (Leiden)

### **Seminar: Business and Human Rights – EU Perspectives**

The topic of Business and Human Rights holds significant relevance within contemporary legal discourse due to the increasing recognition of the impact of business activities on human rights, as well as the corresponding responsibilities of businesses to respect and protect these rights. In an era of globalization and complex supply chains, businesses wield substantial economic and social influence, rendering it imperative to examine the implications of their actions on individuals, communities, and societies. Addressing issues such as Corporate Social Responsibility as well as the nexus between business and human rights not only serves to safeguard fundamental human dignity and well-being but also fosters an environment conducive to sustainable development, ethical corporate governance, and the attainment of social justice objectives. Moreover, in the European Union context, the Due Diligence Directive further emphasizes the necessity for comprehensive analysis and understanding of the obligations imposed upon businesses in relation to human rights due diligence. Accordingly, exploring the multidimensional dimensions of Business and Human Rights from an EU perspective contributes to the advancement of legal knowledge, policymaking, and the promotion of responsible business practices in alignment with human rights principles. The seminar explores the intricate interplay between business operations, human rights, and responsible corporate conduct.

The seminar will address questions such as:

- What are the key concepts, principles, and international frameworks that guide business responsibilities regarding human rights?
- How do businesses incorporate corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to promote and protect human rights?
- What are the objectives and characteristics of the EU's Due Diligence Directive?
- What is the role of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?
- What are the challenges and strategies involved in ensuring respect for human and labour rights across complex global supply chains?
- How can the environment be protected while ensuring operation of businesses?
- How do emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital rights intersect with business and human rights considerations?

The seminar (limit: 20 students) will be conducted **in English** and is open to law students of specialization areas (Schwerpunktbereiche) II, IV, V and IX (vorbereitende Leistung / Seminararbeit / Studienarbeit), for Erasmus exchange and master students of related programs, including those of other Faculties.

Participation requires basic knowledges of public law, EU law, international law, economic or environmental law and some English language skills. Successful participants will also be afforded a language certificate (Sprachenschein).

It is intended that the oral part of the seminar will take place in Brussels in January or February alongside with a visit to EU institutions. We are currently seeking funds to offer financial support. In any case, online participation will be made available.

Participation in the seminar requires

- an application by mail to be sent to [intecolaw@jura.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:intecolaw@jura.uni-goettingen.de) before introductory meetings, indicating (1) the name, (2) mail-address, (3) the type of examination (vorbereitende Leistung/Seminararbeit/Studienarbeit/Erasmus), (4) the level of legal and language skills, (5) a short cv and (6) a short letter of motivation,
- participation in one of the introductory meetings.
- Acceptance will be notified within 3 days after introductory meetings.

## **Timeline**

### **Mandatory introductory meetings**

Monday, 10 July 2023, 7:00 pm (hybrid\*)

Thursday, 26 October 2023, 7:00 pm (hybrid\*)

### **Distribution of topics**

Tuesday, 18 July, 9 am at office\*\*

Monday, 6 November, 9 am at office\*\*

\* Seminarraum of the Institut für Völkerrecht und Europarecht, Blauer Turm (MZG), 13th floor, room 13.122 (access via 12th floor) and online access will be sent out prior to the introductory meetings on request by mail.

\*\* Office: Institut für Völkerrecht und Europarecht, Blauer Turm (MZG), 13th floor, room 13.129)