



Call for Papers

A European Union of Values: Quo Vadis?

A Workshop by the Young Belgian Association for European Union Law (Young BEDER)

The Young Belgian Association for European Union Law (Young BEDER) invites early-career EU law scholars and practitioners to submit **abstracts** for a presentation at the upcoming workshop '**A European Union of Values: Quo Vadis?**', which will take place on **27 November 2025** at **Ghent University**. The keynote speakers will be prof. dr. **Geert de Baere** (judge of the General Court of the EU) and prof. dr. **Paul Nihoul** (judge of the General Court of the EU).

Theme

This **domain-specific workshop** will provide a **platform for critical reflection** on how the **European Union (EU) protects and enforces its values** within the EU legal order. The workshop will provide a forum for young researchers to present their research and to receive feedback from senior researchers and professors.

The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights as enshrined in Article 2 TEU. Doubts have arisen concerning respect of these values, common to the Member States, in several of them, which represents a 'test' for those values. This raises numerous and difficult questions concerning the normative 'value' of those values, how and to what extent they are cognizable before national and EU courts, and how they can contribute to shaping the EU legal order and its constitutional framework.

The PhD workshop invites submissions that critically reflect on those values within the EU, and their enforcement in different areas of EU law. Early-career scholars and practitioners will be invited to prepare contributions addressing the role that EU values might play in their areas of expertise. Participants will examine how EU values shape and influence **specific policy areas**.



Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Values in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice: e.g. concretizations of EU values in Asylum and Migration law, and Schengen law, or mutual trust in the framework of the European Arrest Warrant or other mutual recognition instruments in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal and/or civil matters;
- The fundamental values of the EU in the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): e.g. respect for the EU values such as the rule of law, human rights, justice and pluralism with the effective pursuit of the objectives in the CFSP;
- Tax, Competition and Data Protection law: e.g. the importance of the rule of law in both the institutional set-up of the competent organs as well as in the enforcement of the applicable rules;
- EU Budgetary law: EU Budget conditionality through which the EU promotes and upholds its values and pursues the objectives assigned to the EU by the Treaties.
- Rule of law, judicial independence and enforcement of judgments.

This list of topics is not exhaustive. Contributions dealing with the main theme of EU values but with respect to other policy areas or tackling the abovementioned areas from different perspectives or angles are also welcome.

Publication and prize(s)

Selected participating authors will have the opportunity to **publish** their papers in a peer-reviewed journal or edited book following the workshop.

One or more prizes will be awarded to the best paper(s). The winner(s) will be offered the opportunity to undertake **a study visit in the cabinet of one of the Belgian members of the Court of Justice of the EU** (Court or General Court). During this study visit, he/she will also have the opportunity to apply for a **traineeship** in these cabinets in accordance with the applicable selection procedure. The winner(s) will also be offered the possibility to undertake a **traineeship at the Constitutional Court of Belgium**.

The winner(s) will be invited to **present the award-winning paper(s)** at the annual event of the Belgian Association for European Law (BEDER) the following day (28 November 2025, in Brussels).



Guidelines for submission

Contributions should include:

- A title and abstract (max 500 words) including at least the problem definition and envisaged method;
- The author's name and affiliation;
- Whether you would like to be considered for publication following the conference.

Contributions can be submitted and presented in English, French or Dutch, and should be sent to young@beder.be by **15 May 2025**, along with the author's **CV**.

The scientific committee will inform the selected applicants in the weeks following their submission whether their abstract is selected. Those whose abstracts are selected for the conference will be required to submit a full paper of 8.000 to 10.000 words by **15 September 2025**.

There is no registration fee to attend the PhD Workshop. Subject to available funding and upon request, Young BEDER may be able to cover travel expenses and, where necessary, one night of accommodation in Ghent for selected speakers who do not have other sources of funding.

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