

**Joint M-CEL/Montesquieu Institute Seminar**

**ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE LAW**

Friday 2 November 2012

Tongersestraat 6 Maastricht, the ‘Café’

9.30 Coffee/registration

9.45 Keynote: What has happened and how has it happened: From Maastricht until present

*Alberto de Gregorio Merino (Member of the Legal Service, Council of the European Union)*

**First Round**

*Chair: Monica Claes*

10.30 Using the toolbox of Public International Law: causes and consequences

*(Bruno de Witte, Maastricht University)*

10.55 Financial and economic crisis: driver for legal developments in the EU? A EU/State aid perspective

*(Minke Gort, European Commission)*

11.20 The new financial supervision architecture of the EU: fitting into the EU’s institutional landscape?

*(Andrea Ott, Maastricht University)*

11.45 Financial Federalism

*(Wytze van der Woude, Maastricht University)*

12.10 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch

**Second Round**

*Chair: Aalt Willem Heringa*

14.00 The Stability Treaty in the Dutch legal order

*(Jan Herman Reestman, Amsterdam University)*

14.20 On Sovereign Debt Crisis and Sovereignty: A Constitutional law perspective on the Greek crisis

*(Nikos Skoutaris, London School of Economics)*

14.40Spain: Constitutional Reform and [or?] fiscal federalism

*(Violeta Ruiz Almendral, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid)*

15.00 Financial solidarity in times of crisis

*(Vestert Borger, Leiden University)*

15.00 Discussion

16.00 Coffee

**Third round**

*Chair: Bruno de Witte*

16.30 Panel discussion: The crisis and national parliaments and governments

*Discussants: Thomas Christiansen (Maastricht University), Aalt-Willem Heringa (Maastricht University), Lars Hoffmann (Maastricht University), Monica Claes, (Maastricht University)*



The European Union has been struck by an economic crisis whose end is yet to come. While the media have created an image of uncoordinated action and antagonism, politicians persistently try to make sure that a more confident and cooperative perception is being conveyed. Amidst all the different voices and reactions one impression has crystallized: The Union is struggling to manage the crisis under the rules originally set in place.

This conference will consequently concentrate on two main aspects of the crisis. First, it will discuss the existing rules and norms to be found in the Treaties. What normative set was in place and how was it employed as a means of managing the economic difficulties? Most importantly, the issue will be addressed of why these rules did not seem to be sufficient in order to control the present circumstances. The second aspect will, opposed to the first one, not concentrate on the legal framework that was enacted prior to the economic crisis. Instead, it will address the actual and sometimes “spontaneous” management of the crisis. This includes not only an analysis of the rescue package which consists of several Treaties, Directives, Regulations and national measures, but also on the role which global and private actors have played in this development. The underlying focus that will be adopted during the conference is the assessment of the legal and institutional aspects of the remedies that are set in place to resolve the economic issues at hand.

This seminar is co-organized by the Montesquieu Institute (Maastricht University) and the Maastricht Centre of European Law, and financially supported by the Municipality of Maastricht.

