

The EU in the post-pandemic world: challenges for external relations and prospects for EU-LAC cooperation



5 DE MAIO - 15h50 | via Zoom

(Brasilia Time)

Registration: cejm.diretorio@fgv.br

Summary:

It is by now widely acknowledged that the coronavirus pandemic has transformed the global order and international relations by exacerbating pre-existing trends. In this context, major areas of the EU's external action face new challenges. Multilateralism, a key tool and goal of EU foreign policy has faced criticism and declining trust; international development needs have been amplified by the impact of the pandemic which has hit some of the most vulnerable parts of the world in terms of their economic, political, social and health capabilities. Democracy and human rights have also faced severe challenges, as lockdowns and emergency measures have been used as a basis for increased state control, while disinformation has further polarized societies. Trade has also been fundamentally transformed, most notably by the reliance on supply chains for critical materials and medical equipment. Vaccine dependence and export controls have challenged the free trade model in the EU's trade policy.

These challenges, combined with an expanded influence of great power politics and digitalization trends, have fundamentally altered the nature of international relations. In this context, the EU has placed a renewed focus on its foreign policy and external relations, and has promoted a comprehensive approach across policy areas, interconnectedness between internal and external policies, with emphasis on strategic autonomy and resilience. Against this backdrop, this panel will bring together experts on trade, security and foreign affairs to discuss the challenges faced by the EU in this post-pandemic world. The debate will also address what the new trends in EU foreign policy signify for EU-LAC cooperation and relations between the EU and the region.



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15h50 - 16h	Opening: <i>Paula Wojcikiewicz Almeida (FGV Centre of Excellence on EU-South America Global Governance, FGV Direito Rio)</i>
16h-16h10	<i>Ignacio Ybáñez (Ambassador of the European Union to Brazil)</i>
16h10-16h15	Moderator: <i>Elena Lazarou (European Parliament Research Service and Chatham House)</i>
	Discussants:
16h15-16h25	‘EU, geopolitics and global governance’ <i>Elena Lazarou (European Parliament Research Service and Chatham House)</i>
16h25-16h35	Challenges to the future of EU-LAC relations’ <i>Gian Luca Gardini, Friedrich-Alexander University</i>
16h35-16h45	‘Challenges to security and defence policy’: <i>Tania Latici, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) and Egmont Royal Institute</i>
16h45-16h55	‘EU trade policy’ <i>Jana Titievskaja, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)</i>
16h55-17h15	Discussion and Q&A
17h15-17h30	Conclusions

Coordination:



Paula Wojcikiewicz Almeida is professor of International Law and EU Law at Getulio Vargas Foundation Law School in Rio de Janeiro (since 2008). Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on EU-South America Global Governance, sponsored by the European Commission at the Getulio Vargas Foundation Law School. Associate Researcher at the Institute of International and European Law at the Sorbonne (IREDIES). Nominated Brazilian Member of the International Law Association Committee on the Procedure of International Courts and Tribunals. Chair of the Interest Group on 'International Courts and Tribunals' of the Latin American Society of International Law (LASIL). Doctorate with honors *summa cum laude* in International and European Law at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Post-doctoral visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (2014). Visiting professor at the École de droit de la Sorbonne, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (2019).

Themes and participants:

- **New trends in EU foreign policy and prospects for EU-LAC cooperation**



Ignacio Ybáñez is Ambassador of the European Union to Brazil. He is a Spanish Diplomat and was Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of his country, where he also held the position of Director-General for Foreign Policy and Multilateral Global Affairs and Director-General of Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. In addition, he was Spanish Ambassador to Russia.

- **'EU, geopolitics and global governance'**



Elena Lazarou is the Acting Head of the External Policies Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), where her research focuses on security and defence, global governance, transatlantic relations and EU foreign policy. Prior to joining EPRS, she headed the Center for International Relations of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil (2012-2014) and the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory of the Hellenic Center for European Studies (2009-2010). She received a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in 2008. She has held research positions at the University of Cambridge, the University of Sheffield and the London School of Economics (LSE), as well as various visiting positions in think tanks and universities in Europe and the US. She has published edited volumes, articles and policy briefs in English, Portuguese and Greek. Dr. Lazarou is an Associate Fellow on the "US and Americas" programme at Chatham House.

- **‘Challenges to the future of EU-LAC relations’**



Gian Luca Gardini is Professor of International Relations and Latin American Politics and Chair of International Business and Society Relations with focus on Latin America at Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany. He has previously taught at the University of Cambridge and at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom. Professor Gardini holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Cambridge. He also obtained a Graduate Diploma in European Studies from the Italian Centre for International Economic Cooperation. His main research interests cover the international relations of Latin America, foreign policy analysis, comparative regional integration, international organisation, and issues of international power, order and institutions.

- **‘Challenges to security and defence policy’**



Tania Latici is as a Policy Analyst on security and defence in the European Parliamentary Research Service - the in-house think tank of the European Parliament - where she supports MEPs with specialised input while regularly publishing on strategic matters related to the EU’s security and defence policy, EU-NATO cooperation and others. Tania is also doing a part-time PhD on transatlantic defence cooperation at the University of Ghent and within the Doctoral School of the European Security and Defence College. Past work experiences include the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the transatlantic relations division at the European External Action Service. Tania is also an Associate Fellow with the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, a Member of Women in International Security Brussels, a Transatlantic Denton Fellow at CEPA, and an Associate Expert at the New Strategy Center. In 2019, she was a GLOBSEC Young Leader and New Security Leader at the Warsaw Security Forum. In 2020, she was appointed by Secretary General Stoltenberg to co-coordinate the NATO Young Leaders advisory body to assist the NATO2030 strategic reflection process.

- **‘EU trade policy’**



Jana Titievskaia is a Policy Analyst for international trade at the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the in-house think tank of the European Parliament. She regularly publishes on EU trade policy, World Trade Organisation (WTO), digital trade, and sustainability, and provides tailored briefings to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and the wider parliamentary community. Jana has worked for the European Commission’s trade and development departments (Support Group for Ukraine), and has helped set up a new evidence-based policy analysis unit at the European Economic and Social Committee. Jana holds a BSc in Government from the London School of Economics and is an alumnus of the United World College of India.