COPFUTUREU NEWSLETTER

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JEAN MONNET MODULE
COPFUTUREU

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Prof. Dr. Özgün ERLER BAYIR

The Preface

BY PROF. DR. ÖZGÜN ERLER BAYIR
Jean Monnet Module CHAIR | COPFUTUREU

We are delighted to welcome you to our first newsletter of 2026, marking the beginning of another year dedicated to academic excellence and European dialogue!
This comes at an exciting time as we celebrate the successful conclusion of our 2025-2026 Fall Courses and the official launch of the 2025-2026 Spring Courses, where students continue to build a strong analytical foundation in European affairs. Since our last update, we have organized two insightful seminars that offered our participants a deep dive into the evolving legal frameworks of European integration and the strategic shift toward a carbon-neutral continent. These sessions provided a unique platform for students to engage directly with experts, bridging the gap between theoretical study and the practical realities of the Union's future. In addition to these academic milestones, the following pages provide in-depth coverage of critical developments within the EU over recent months, including the strategic implementation of the Readiness2030 Package, the comprehensive Sustainability Package, and the key outcomes from the COP30 Climate Summit.
We are truly grateful for the vibrant community of students and experts who continue to make this journey so rewarding!

Within These Pages:

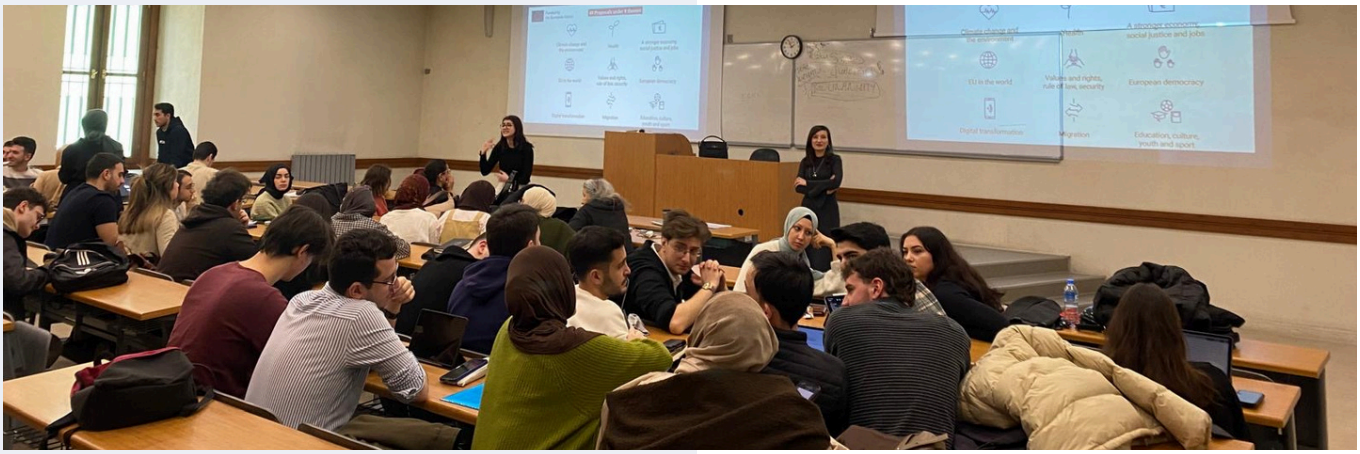
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2025-2026 Fall Course successfully completed



This semester's fall course provided students with a deep dive into the EU's evolving governance and policy architecture. Through interactive sessions and analytical assignments, participants explored the complex relationship between member states and supranational institutions across political and economic dimensions. By the end of the term, students gained a sophisticated understanding of the Union's internal mechanics and its expanding role in global politics.

2025-2026 Spring Course started this semester



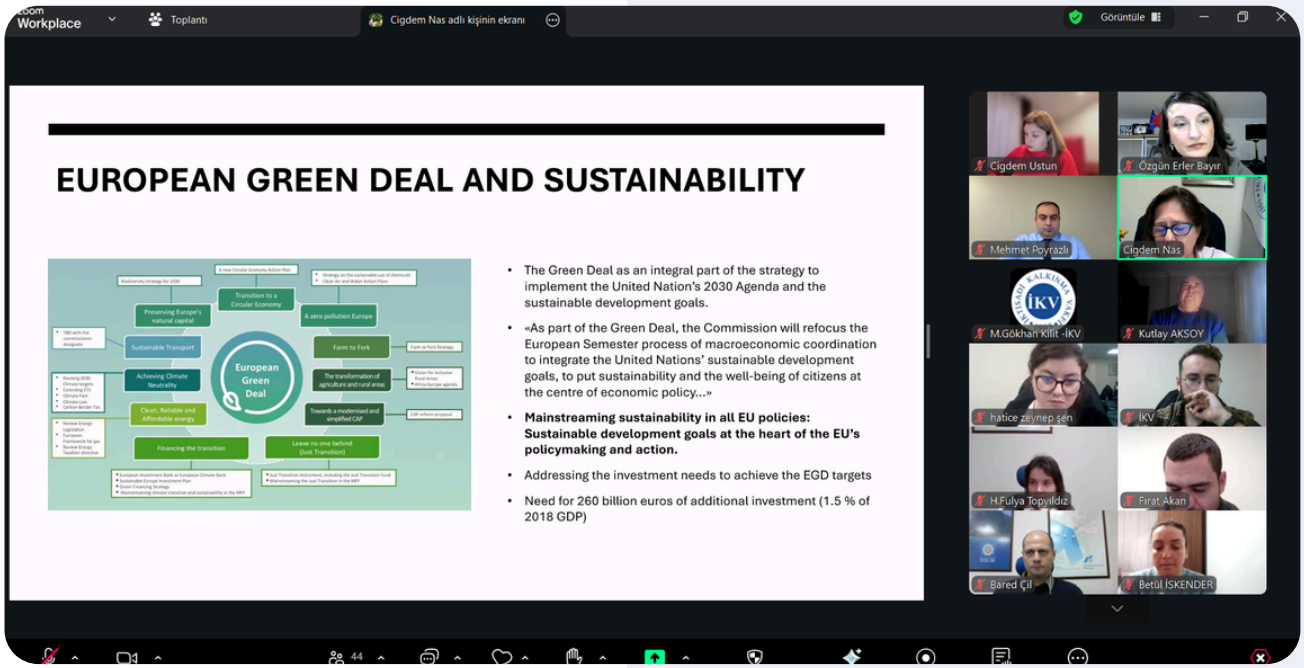
The ongoing spring course helps students understand how the European Union works and grows in today's world. Participants are currently looking at the balance between national interests and EU-wide rules while exploring the main systems that drive European cooperation. Through group discussions and practical assignments, students are building a clear picture of how the Union manages its internal affairs and how it influences global politics.

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Seminar Series - IX

Europe's Green Future: Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and the Evaluation of EU Sustainability and Energy Policies

24 December 2025



The 9th seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module series was successfully held online via Zoom. On December 24, 2025, participants joined a comprehensive discussion moderated by the JMM Chair, Özgün Erler Bayır. The event featured Çiğdem Nas, Secretary General of IKV, and Çiğdem Üstün, Secretary General of EDAM, who offered in-depth perspectives on Europe's green future. The seminar explored the critical intersections of climate change, environmental degradation, and the evolution of EU sustainability and energy policies, providing attendees with valuable insights into the strategic challenges and opportunities the European Union faces in its transition toward a greener economy.

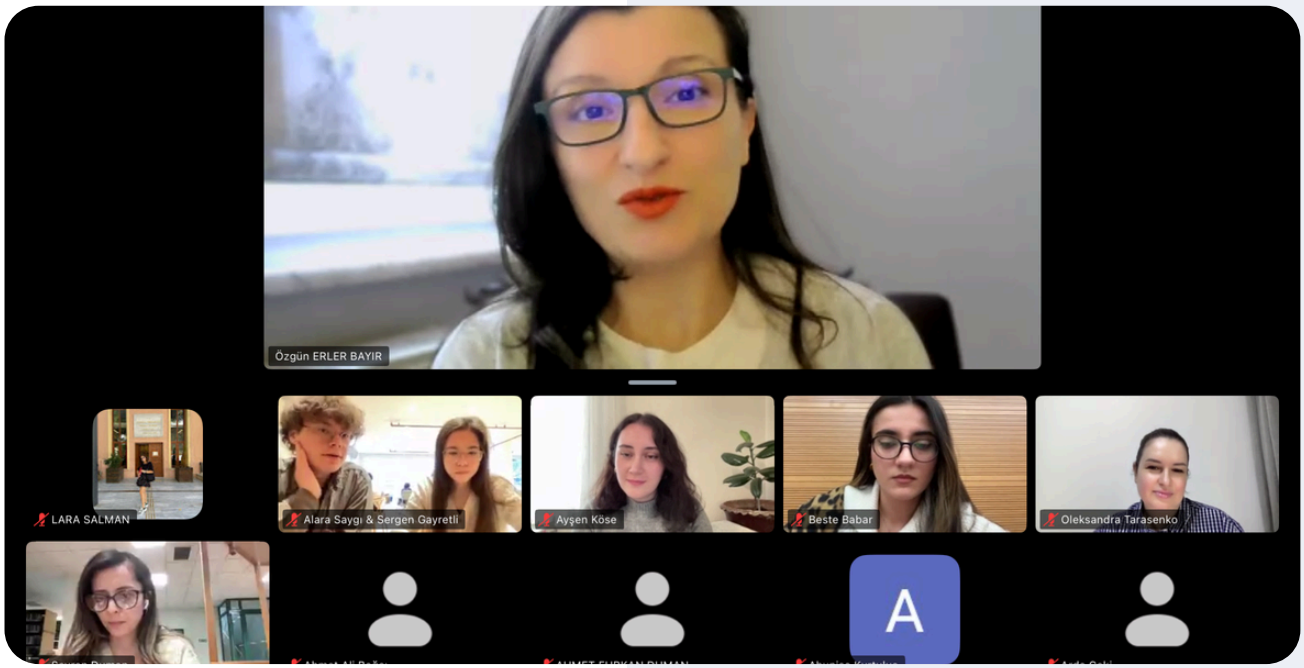
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Seminar Series - X

Rule of Law at the Crossroads: European Union and Ukraine

12 March 2026



The 10th seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module series was successfully held online via Zoom. On March 12, 2026, participants joined a rich discussion moderated by the JMM Chair, Prof. Dr. Özgün Erler Bayır. Dr. Oleksandra Tarasenko and Ayşen Köse, both from Istanbul University, offered in-depth perspectives on the "Rule of Law at the Crossroads: European Union and Ukraine." The seminar provided students and attendees with valuable insights into the legal and political challenges facing the EU and Ukraine, highlighting the importance of democratic values and judicial frameworks in the current regional context.



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News in the EU - I

Forging Strategic Readiness: The 2030 Roadmap for a Resilient European Defence

The Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030 marks a decisive shift in the European Union's strategy, aiming to transform its fragmented defense sector into a unified industrial powerhouse. Backed by an estimated €800 billion in potential investment, the roadmap seeks to achieve strategic autonomy by 2030 and reduce external dependencies. This framework is designed to ensure the EU can effectively deter and respond to both conventional and hybrid threats through enhanced public funding and innovative financial mechanisms.





To reach this state of readiness, the package prioritizes four major "flagship" projects focused on integrated air and missile defense, space security, drone technology, and border surveillance. Beyond infrastructure, it introduces policy reforms to streamline defense procurement and provides fiscal flexibility for national budgets. By integrating Ukraine into this defense ecosystem, the EU aims to transition from a "peace dividend" mindset to a resilient model capable of sustaining long-term regional security.

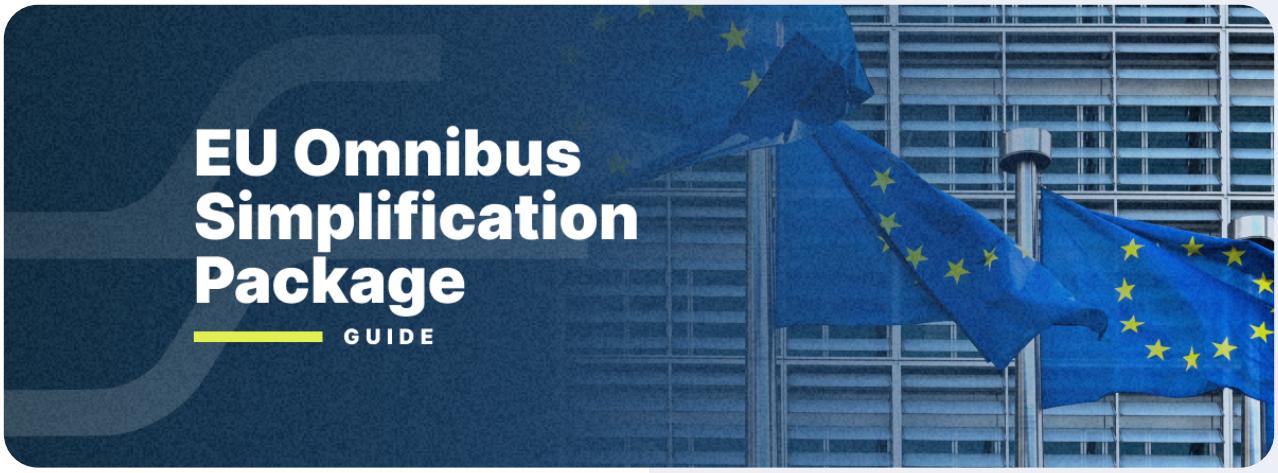
Sources:
https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/white-paper-european-defence-readiness-2030_en

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News in the EU - II

The 2026 Sustainability Pivot: Redefining Compliance in the Omnibus I Era

The sustainability package expected to be fully implemented by February 2026 focuses primarily on the operational stages of regulations such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Green Claims Directive. Under this package, companies are mandated to report environmental impacts and human rights risks throughout their entire supply chains, while any products marketed as "eco-friendly" or "green" must now meet rigorous, scientifically grounded verification standards. These measures aim to foster a more transparent and accountable commercial ecosystem for all actors operating within the European market.



Proposed Omnibus Changes to CSRD

Created by NOSSADATA

CSRD	Pre-Ominbus	Post-Omnibus
Overall Scope	~ 50,000 Companies	~ 7,000 Companies
# Employees	>= 250	>= 1,000
Net turnover	> €40,000,000	> €50,000,000
Balance Sheet	> €25,000,000	> €25,000,000
Non-EU Undertakings	Net turnover: > €150,000,000 AND • EU branch with > €40,000,000 turnover OR listed EU subsidiary • OR security listed on an EU market	Net turnover: > €450,000,000 AND • EU branch with > €50,000,000 turnover OR listed EU subsidiary • OR security listed on an EU market

Another critical pillar of the package involves new incentive mechanisms designed to streamline financing for circular economy and clean energy investments. By expanding the scope of carbon boundary adjustments and tightening sustainable product design standards, the EU is effectively turning green transformation from a choice into a necessity for international trade partners. Key objectives during this phase include scaling up renewable energy capacity and maximizing resource efficiency through tools like the digital product passport.

Sources:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2026/470/oj

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News in the EU - III

The Belém Legacy: How COP30 Redefined Global Climate Finance for 2030

The COP30 Summit, held in Belém, Brazil, concluded with the landmark "Global Mutirão" (Global Taskforce) agreement, which established a new collective quantified goal for climate finance, aiming for $1.3 trillion annually by 2035 to support developing nations. This summit was particularly significant as it marked the first official acknowledgement in a final text of the high risk of overshooting the 1.5 °C threshold, leading to the launch of the "Belém 1.5 Mission" to protect tropical biomes.





These global negotiations forced a shift toward more aggressive national contributions, emphasizing that the window for meaningful climate action is rapidly closing. In response to these international commitments, the European Union moved swiftly in early 2026 to align its internal legislative framework with the COP30 outcomes. The EU formally updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), raising its 2035 emission reduction target to at least 66% and initiating the process to make a 90% net reduction by 2040 legally binding. A cornerstone of this post-COP30 strategy is the full activation of the permanent phase of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in January 2026, which ensures that global trade partners must meet these heightened environmental standards to maintain access to the European market, effectively turning climate diplomacy into a core element of international trade.

Sources:
https://unfccc.int/cop30
https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2040-climate-target_en

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