

## ***SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project***

presents

*Seminar Series in Bologna and Ravenna*

Dr Niccolò Lanzoni

***“La Responsabilità Sociale d’Impresa negli Accordi preferenziali commerciali di nuova generazione dell’Unione europea”***

Wednesday 5 November 2025, h. 17-19, Sala Armi, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni 22, Bologna

[Link online](#)

Alessandra Quarta

***“La regolamentazione della plastica nell’Unione europea: stato attuale e prospettive future”***

Wednesday 12 November 2025, h. 17-19, Aula Gershevitch, Palazzo Verdi, Via Pasolini 23, Ravenna

[Link online](#)

Grazia Eleonora Vita

***“Climate Change Litigation in Europe”***

Wednesday 19 November 2025, h. 17-19, Sala Baldisserri, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni 22, Bologna

[Link online](#)

Klarissa Martins Sckayer Abicalam

***“Women Empowerment and the EU Trade Policy”***

Wednesday 26 November 2025, h. 17-19, Sala Armi, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni 22, Bologna

[Link online](#)

Giulia Bortino

***“Il Piano Mattei e il Global Gateway dell’Unione europea – nuovi orizzonti di cooperazione allo sviluppo nel continente africano”***

Wednesday 3 December 2025, h. 17-19, Aula 3, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Via Oberdan 1/2, Ravenna

[Link online](#)

*Introductory Remarks and Discussant: Prof. Elisa Baroncini*  
*SustainEUorPlanet Jean Monnet Chair*

A certificate of attendance will be conferred to all participants at the end of the final seminar

The seminars are organised as part of the activities of the SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project, co-funded by the European Union. The scientific organization of the “SustainEUorPlanet” Seminar Series is curated by the coordinator of the Jean Monnet Chair Project, Prof. Elisa Baroncini, and by the member of the research team, Dr. Niccolò Lanzoni. For information regarding the seminars, please contact: niccolo.lanzoni2@unibo.it

**Prof. Elisa Baroncini:** *Cum laude* Law Degree and PhD in EU Law, is Full Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna, where she currently teaches International Economic Law, International Law on Sustainable Development, and International Energy Law. After having served for ten years (2012-2022) as Co-Chair of the ESIL IG on International Economic Law, in 2019 Elisa co-founded and is currently Coordinator of the Interest Group on International Economic Law of the Italian Society of International Law (DIEcon); and in December 2023, she has been elected as Member of the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). She has been Visiting Professor at the China-EU School of Law, speaker and organizer of many international conferences, Visiting Researcher at the European University Institute. Elisa coordinates and participates in international and national research projects. She has been awarded the Jean Monnet Module “Re-Globe - Reforming the Global Economic Governance: The EU for SDGs in International Economic Law” (2022-2025), the Jean Monnet Chair “SustainEUorPlanet - The EU as a Global Actor in the International Law for the Sustainable Development of the Planet – Advancing Fairness, Expanding Accountability and Promoting Security” (2025-2028), and the research fund by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the project “L’Organizzazione mondiale del commercio quale protagonista dello sviluppo sostenibile nel rilancio del sistema multilaterale”. Elisa has recently been the Coordinator of two UNA Europa Seeds Research Projects: “WHC@50 - Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention”; and “ImprovEUorGlobe - The UN 2030 Agenda in the EU Trade Policy: Improving Global Governance for a Sustainable New World”. Member of the Scientific Committee of the “Centro Interuniversitario sul Diritto delle Organizzazioni Internazionali Economiche” (CIDOIE), Elisa has also been part of the Promoting Committee of the University of Bologna to honour the 1972 UNESCO Convention, and Member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Advanced Studies (ISA) of the University of Bologna. In June 2022 she has been appointed by the European Commission TSD Expert for the dispute settlement mechanisms of the new generation of EU free trade agreements. In May 2023, Elisa Baroncini has been appointed Independent Non-executive Director of the Board of Eni S.p.A. She is also Member of the Editorial Board of “The Journal of World Investment & Trade” and the Editorial Board - Section of Bologna of “Diritto del commercio internazionale”. Elisa publishes extensively mainly in English and Italian, and her main fields of research include: the reform process of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism; the relation between free trade and non-trade values; transparency and civil society in international economic law; the new generation of EU FTAs and their enforcement; the participation of the European Parliament and the Commission in the EU treaty-making power; the relation between free trade and investment protection and cultural heritage protection; EU and international energy law.

**“La Responsabilità Sociale d’Impresa negli Accordi preferenziali commerciali di nuova generazione dell’Unione europea”.** **Abstract:** The lecture explores the normative significance and practical implications of integrating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) soft-law instruments into preferential trade agreements (PTAs), particularly those concluded by the European Union (EU). It underscores the growing incorporation of international CSR benchmarks in such agreements, illustrating the rising prominence of sustainable development and responsible business conduct within international economic law. Although CSR has traditionally been characterised by its voluntary nature, references to these instruments in trade agreements increasingly raise questions about their regulatory weight and their potential to shape binding obligations. The discussion addresses the complexities of this development, including how CSR references in trade agreements are legally interpreted and the extent to which they affect corporate duties. It concludes that, while CSR largely retains its voluntary character, its presence in trade agreements reflects a broader movement toward greater harmonisation and accountability in global economic governance.

**Dr Niccolò Lanzoni:** Niccolò Lanzoni is post-doctoral research fellow and adjunct professor in International Law at the Department of Law and at the Department of Cultural Heritage. He holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Bologna and has been admitted to the Italian Bar. He has obtained the “National Scientific Qualification” (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) for the position of associate professor in International Law in Italian universities. Previously, he held the position of post-doctoral research fellow (*assegnista di ricerca*) and adjunct professor at the same university. He is also adjunct professor in International Law at the Higher School for Linguistic Mediators (CIELS). A visiting research fellow at the Heidelberg Institute for Latin America and former guest lecturer at the Eastern Mediterranean University, he served as research assistant for the Italian Defence College in the M/V ‘Norstar’ case (Panama v Italy). In 2023 he published the monograph *L’acquiescenza nel diritto internazionale* with Editoriale Scientifica.

**“La regolamentazione della plastica nell’Unione europea: stato attuale e prospettive future”.** **Abstract:** Plastic is one of the major environmental challenges of our time, and the European Union is among the global leaders in setting rules to deal with it. In recent years, the EU has introduced rules limiting the use of single-use plastic products, promoting recycling and encouraging innovative solutions with a view to the circular economy. The Single-Use Plastics Directive and the measures linked to the European Green Deal are significant steps towards a more sustainable development model, but they also raise questions about their practical implementation and impact on citizens, businesses and Member States. The seminar will provide an overview of the current state of European regulation, highlighting its successes and critical issues, and will discuss future prospects, particularly in relation to the ongoing negotiations for a global plastics treaty. The aim is to stimulate an interdisciplinary debate on the EU’s role in addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges worldwide.

**Alessandra Quarta:** Alessandra Quarta graduated, *cum laude*, in Law (master’s degree in single cycle) with a thesis in European Union Law at *Alma Mater Studiorum* - University of Bologna. She is currently enrolled in the third year of the PhD Course in Cultural and Environmental Heritage at the University of Bologna, with a thesis on cultural heritage in the EU trade policy (Supervisor Prof. Elisa Baroncini) and collaborates as a teaching tutor of the European Union Law course at the Ravenna Campus of the University of Bologna. She is also member of several international projects: Una Europa Seed funding Project “ImprovEUorGlobe - UN 2030 agenda in EU trade policy: improving global governance for a new sustainable world”; Una Europa Seed funding Project “WHC@50 Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention”; Jean Monnet Module “Re-Globe – Reforming the Global Economic Governance: the EU for SDGs in International Economic Law” and the MAECI Projects “L’organizzazione mondiale del commercio quale protagonista dello sviluppo sostenibile nel rilancio del sistema multilaterale” and “Il sistema multilaterale degli scambi come piattaforma per affrontare le sfide globali: gli Accordi e le Iniziative plurilaterali dell’OMC quali strumenti di governance del nuovo ordine economico mondiale”.

**“Climate Change Litigation in Europe”. Abstract:** The surge in climate anxiety around the world is reflected in the growing number of domestic climate lawsuits. Despite some scepticism about its ability to genuinely address the climate crisis, climate change litigation undoubtedly serves as a robust mechanism to hold governments and private entities accountable for their actions and inactions. Judgments such as *Urgenda*, *Milieudefensie v. Shell* and the ECtHR’s *Klimaseniorinnen* ruling demonstrate that courts can establish enforceable standards of behaviour for states and corporations. Not to mention the recent Advisory Opinions issued by the ITLOS, the IACtHR and the ICJ. This webinar maps the practical and doctrinal hurdles that judges face. Judges are tasked with interpreting and applying laws that were not usually designed with the global scale and intricacies of the climate crisis in mind. The scientific nuances of climate change mean that judges must engage with and understand technical environmental data, which may be outside their traditional area of expertise. Furthermore, attributing legal responsibility for widespread, diffuse harms resulting from collective contributions to greenhouse gas emissions over time and across jurisdictions is difficult. Judges must also strike a balance between the judiciary and policymaking, which is traditionally the domain of the legislative and executive branches, to avoid overstepping their remit. Additionally, they must ensure that their decisions are enforceable, particularly when the parties involved are powerful states or multinational corporations. In this rapidly evolving judicial landscape, judges are at the forefront of defining the role of law in addressing the most pressing global challenge of our time. This presentation addresses the theoretical and practical challenges that judges will face when presiding over climate change cases. From a methodological perspective, the analysis will mainly examine recent European case law to determine how judges handle expert evidence, uncertainty and proportional remedies. The argument will be put forward that judges need to become ‘climate literate’ through a uniform set of guidelines and appropriate training. Furthermore, it will be suggested that courts should consider making greater use of experts, or even establishing specialised sections, in order to overcome the challenges arising from the specific national system and the technical nature of climate change.

**Grazia Eleonora Vita:** is a PhD candidate in International Law at the Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna and holds an LLM in International Dispute Resolution from King’s College London. Her current research focuses on business and human rights and private international law aspects of transnational environmental disputes. She has been a visiting researcher at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden Law School and at Geneva University. She is a member of the executive committee of the Italian Arbitration Association (AA40). She is also an Editorial Advisor of the University of Bologna Law Review.

**“Women Empowerment and the EU Trade Policy”. Abstract:** In the current crisis multilateralism is facing, the most powerful weapons the EU has at disposal is its great regulatory power, which balances a free-market economy and the guarantee of individual freedoms and democracy with welfare, social rights and environmental protection. As an important global actor in the geopolitical scenario, the EU has a crucial role to play in promoting the 5th goal of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda - “to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The seminar will analyze how the EU has advanced women’s rights and women’s economic empowerment multilaterally in the WTO and bilaterally through its last generation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and International Investment Agreements (IIAs). The seminar will also consider the unilateral trade measures granted by the EU under the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) for vulnerable developing countries, and how it can contribute to raising women’s rights standards beyond EU borders.

**Klarissa Martins Sckayer Abicalam:** is a PhD candidate in European Union Law - International Law (39° cycle 2023/2024) at the University of Bologna with her project on “The EU Trade Policy for Women’s Economic Empowerment”. She has a Master’s degree (Second Cycle/Two Year LLM 2020-2022) in Global and Transnational Legal Culture at the University of Bologna where she was graduated with full marks - 110 e Lode - and was awarded the best international student of Alma Mater in the academic year 2020/2021, having written her thesis on the topic “The New Era of Mega-Regional Trade Agreements and the Relevance of the EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement in the Process of Re-Globalization”. She is a fully qualified lawyer in Brazil, where she graduated in Law at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo.

**“Il Piano Mattei e il Global Gateway dell’Unione europea – nuovi orizzonti di cooperazione allo sviluppo nel continente africano”. Abstract:** The Mattei Plan for Africa is one of the most significant actions of the current Italian foreign policy: a broad-spectrum strategy with ambitious goals. On the European level, the Global Gateway is an initiative in the field of development cooperation that is unprecedented in many respects. It is considered a tool through which the European Union not only pursues sustainable development goals but also aims to achieve geostrategic objectives. Given the recent developments that have led to the coordination of the Mattei Plan and the Global Gateway, it is essential to understand the origins of the two strategies, their common objectives and areas of intervention.

**Giulia Bortino:** Giulia Bortino is a first-year PhD Candidate in International Law, enrolled in the PhD Programme of Cultural and Environmental Heritage at the University of Bologna, where she carries out research on International Law and endangered cultural and natural heritage. After graduating *cum laude* in International Cooperation on Human Rights and Intercultural Heritage, Bortino carried out an Erasmus traineeship at Europa Nostra – the European voice of civil society committed to cultural heritage, in Brussels and started collaborating as a teaching tutor of the International Law Chair at the Ravenna Campus of the University of Bologna.

**SustainEUorPlanet:** The Project proposes an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the EU’s international policies and legal frameworks directed to economic and social fairness, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, while looking for security to overcome geopolitical tensions and asymmetries. SustainEUorPlanet has a twofold purpose. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging the promotion of a ruling and academic class of excellence, involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, local businesses and public administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a sustainable agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of economic operators’ accountability and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing EU’s external tools through participation and transparency. Likewise, the Project focuses on political security policies in world economy. More information available on the Project’s [website](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).