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The Politics of Differentiation in the European Union

Book launch at CEPS, Brussels, September 15, 2022, 16-17:30

followed by reception with drinks and snacks (until 18:00)

Differentiation has become a characteristic feature of contemporary European integration. Does differentiation – in terms of institutions, policies, and territory – present a challenge for European unity? Does differentiation create more challenges or opportunities for the European Union? Is Europe moving away from an "ever closer Union" and heading towards an "ever more differentiated Union", especially as leading political figures across Europe favor the use of differentiation to reconcile divergences between member states? These are some of the essential questions *The Routledge Handbook of Differentiation in the European Union* seeks to answer.

At the occasion of this book launch, the editors will present the key arguments and findings collected in more than three dozen chapters. In addition, other contributors will explore differentiation in the field of security and defense as well as compliance in associational agreements.

16:00 Welcome *Steven Blockmans*

16:15 Book launch

Differentiation of the European Union: problem or solution?
Benjamin Leruth, Stefan Gänzle and Jarle Trondal

PESCO: a formula for positive integration in European defence
Steven Blockmans and Dylan Macchiarini Crosson

EU external differentiated integration and compliance: theoretical and legal aspects
Anne Pintsch and Marina Rabinovych

Comment *Sieglinde Gstöhl*

17:00 The future of (external) differentiation in the EU: from the Western Balkans to Ukraine
Angelina Eichhorst, Managing Director Europe, EEAS

**Venue: Center for European Public Policy (CEPS), @conference room, Pl. du Congrès 1,
1000 Brussels, Belgium**

Biographies



Steven Blockmans is Director of Research at CEPS, Professor of EU External Relations Law at the University of Amsterdam, Senior Fellow at EFPI, and editor-in-chief of the *European Foreign Affairs Review*. He is a frequent commentator on EU affairs at major media outlets and regularly briefs senior policy practitioners from the European Union, its member states and G20 country governments. He is the author of *Tough Love: the EU's relations with the Western Balkans* (Asser Press 2007) and *The Obsolescence of the European Neighbourhood Policy* (Rowman & Littlefield 2017) and has (co-)edited 20 volumes, including *The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy* (Edward Elgar 2018) and a trilogy on *Democracy in the EU* (Rowman & Littlefield 2020).



Dylan Macchiarini Crosson is a Researcher in the EU Foreign Policy Unit at CEPS. A young professional working on Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Defence Union and transatlantic relations, he has carried out research and policy evaluation in both the professional and academic spheres. He is currently seconded as a H2020 JOINT project researcher to the Integrated Approach for Security and Peace Directorate of the European External Action Service (EEAS).



Stefan Gänzle is Professor of Political Science, a member of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and Head of the Department of Political Science and Management, University of Agder. Previous affiliations include the German Development Institute in Bonn, the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and the University of Jena. He is the author of one book and has co-edited six books or special issues of academic journals. He recently co-edited *Differentiated Integration and Disintegration in a Post-Brexit Era* (Routledge, 2019).



Sieglinde Gstöhl is Director of the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges where she has been Professor since 2005. Before joining the College, she was Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Social Sciences at Humboldt University Berlin. She is an alumna of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and of the University of St. Gallen. Her most recent book is *The External Action of the European Union: Concepts, Approaches, Theories*, London, Red Globe Press, 2021 (with Simon Schunz)



Benjamin Leruth is Assistant Professor in European Politics and Society at the University of Groningen. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Edinburgh and previously worked at the University of Bath and the University of Kent. His research interests are Euroscepticism, differentiated integration in the European Union and public attitudes towards governance. He recently co-edited *Euroscepticism as a Transnational and pan-European Phenomenon* (Routledge, 2017), *After Austerity* (Oxford University Press, 2017), the *Routledge Handbook of Euroscepticism* (2018) and the *Routledge Handbook of Differentiation in the European Union* (Routledge, 2022).



Anne Pintsch is Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and Management at the University of Agder (UiA). She also is the Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at UiA and leader of a research project on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, funded by the Research Council of Norway. She obtained a PhD from ETH Zurich, Switzerland, and held postdoc positions at Ghent University, Belgium, and the University of Mannheim, Germany. Her research interests include the European Union's external relations, in particular regarding the Eastern Neighbourhood and international organizations, international democracy promotion and democratization/autocratization.



Maryna Rabinovych is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Department of Political Science and Management, University of Agder. She works on a research project "Lowering the Bar? Compliance Negotiations and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement", funded by the Research Council of Norway. Her previous affiliations include Kyiv School of Economics, National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" and University of Hamburg. Her research interests include EU external relations, EU Neighbourhood Policy, EU trade and development policies, as well as internal political and legal developments in the post-Soviet space. Her most recent book is "EU Regional Trade Agreements. An Instrument of Promoting the Rule of Law to Third States" (Routledge, 2021).



Jarle Trondal is Professor of Public Administration and a member of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the University of Agder and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo (ARENA). His research and teaching activities relate to the EU as a political system, administrative integration and transformation, the EU/EEA and Norway, the European Commission, international executive institutions, EU committee governance, agency governance. He recently co-edited the *Palgrave Handbook of Crises in the European Union* (Palgrave, 2021).