

PREFACE

The work now being published compiles the speeches and academic papers presented at the Joint Seminar between the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau and the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra, held at the former's facilities on October 28, 2024, under the theme '*Contemporary Issues of International and European Union Law*'.

The introductory and commendation speeches, delivered respectively by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau, Professor Tong Io Cheng, the Vice-Rector (Global Affairs) of the University of Macau, Professor Rui Martins, the Vice-Rector (External Relations and Alumni) of the University of Coimbra, Professor João Nuno Calvão da Silva, the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra, Professor Jónatas Machado, the Associate Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau, Professor Wei Dan, and the President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau, Professor Paulo Canelas de Castro, underlined that this Joint Seminar between the two sister law schools, from the Macau Special Administrative Region of China and Portugal, and which counted on the support of the Sino-Lusophone Academy of the University of Coimbra, had a dual motivation and purpose: to celebrate a historical record of mutually beneficial relations for more than three decades between the two institutions, but also to launch a new initiative that opens a new era of a more intense and ambitious relationship; one joint seminar which is expected to be replicated annually, on a rotating basis between the two schools and which will further project the quality of research and teaching of these schools internationally, while simultaneously deepening their global recognition – one already well illustrated by the very honorable position that each institution occupies in the specialized rankings of University Law Faculties.

In its aim to celebrate decades of valuable relations between the

two Law Faculties of Macau and Coimbra, the Joint Seminar also sought to pay tribute to a great academic figure who, following in the footsteps of the first Coimbra Professors who, as area of studies Coordinators, among others, contributed to the establishment of the Law course at the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau (Professors João Almeida Garrett, Orlando de Carvalho, Rogério Soares, João Antunes Varela, Jorge de Figueiredo Dias), has himself, as invited Visiting Professor, played a decisive role in the development of the internationalization of this Faculty, with the launch in 2003 of the Master's Degree in European Union Law, International Law and Comparative Law in English and, even more broadly, in Macau, in the accreditation of European studies and global legal studies, particularly in the area of legal-economic sciences and European Union law: Professor Manuel Lopes Porto, distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra, its former Dean, the founder and Director of the European Studies Course — a prestigious center for specialized research and teaching at that Faculty — and, amongst other public space roles, a member of European institutions, including academic ones. The always generous, knowledgeable, and, at all times humane and friendly contribution of Professor Manuel Lopes Porto in these areas in Macau, over more than two decades, both as an academic and as a public personality in Portugal and Europe at large, went beyond the confines of the University. This fructuous academic cooperation also extended to the Institute of European Studies of Macau and its activities, especially its international academic projects and the prestigious Master in European Studies, jointly developed with the University of Macau and which was pioneering in the Asia-Pacific area; this explains why the Institute of European Studies of Macau could not fail to be associated with this tribute, thus turning it into a homage from academic teaching and research institutions of Macau as a whole to a personality who nurtures love for Macau and who has given so much to Macau.

The important academic works presented in the Joint Seminar that this publication subsequently perpetuates and disseminates and

that deal with such important contemporary issues of international law and European Union law are, in their individual themes and depth, an eloquent demonstration of the maturity and academic excellence of each of the faculties and of the quality and elevation of the dialogue that they have always maintained. Starting with a reflection by Professor Lopes Porto himself on *The Role of Regional Blocs in a Globalized World; The Case of the European Union*, symbolically well representing the intellectual mentorship role that he always played on these matters in both schools and the impact exerted on subsequent generations of academics, it is followed by a study on *Legal Cooperation Among BRICS Countries* by Professor Wei Dan and one of her PHD supervisees, Yiliang Chen, one on *The European Union and the Promotion of International Peace and Security* by Professor Jónatas Machado, a study about the recent Ljubljana-The Hague Convention titled *Pursuing the Perpetrators of International Crime Beyond National Borders* by Professor Muruga Perumal Ramswamy, a learned overview of the topic *Regulatory Agencies in the EU* by Professor João Nuno Calvão da Silva and an assessment of *Developments of EU Energy Law and Policy* by Professor Paulo Canelas de Castro. In their attention to diverse contemporary problems of the globalised world, they also eloquently signal the capacity of these two schools, individually and collectively, to assert scientifically sound and audacious paths in the investigation of crucial problems of the modern societies of our times, called upon to undertake significant transitions, moreover in an uncertain or turbulent context. They also accredit the project that underpins and animates the Joint Seminar documented in this publication: that this will be the first of many other joint seminars and other common works between the two schools; that the ties between them will become ever stronger, for the benefit of the communities in which they are embedded and which they serve, and of the science of Law in general.

Paulo Canelas de Castro

Macau, December 2025