

PRESS RELEASE

The Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL), with the contribution of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, organizes on Wednesday, **March 31st 2021 at 17:30**, a workshop for the presentation of the book:

*Mutual trust in times of crisis of EU values:
State of play and possible next steps*

The workshop will be hosted online and will be held in Greek, English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, while prominent figures of academia and the judicial sector will participate in it.

During the first session, the research team, comprised of **Virginia Tzortzi**, supervisor of the team, **Konstantina-Antigoni Poulou**, **Maria Sapardani** and **Elli Tsitsipa** will present the findings of CIEEL's research project on "Mutual trust in times of crisis of EU values: State of play and possible next steps". The project and the publication of the book were funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

The guest speakers of the second session, chaired by the former President of the Court of Justice of the European Union, Emeritus Professor of AUTH and President of CIEEL **Vassilios Skouris**, are the Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, **Camelia Toader**, and Professor of EU Law at the King's College of London, **Takis Tridimas**. The speakers will provide their knowledge and make valuable remarks on the functioning and importance of the principle of mutual trust in the European Union, especially given the ongoing crisis of EU values.

Sharing a community of values is the prerequisite of achieving together the objectives set by the Treaties and is the basis of mutual trust between member states. However, no one ignores that the European Union is currently experiencing a "crisis of values" revealing deep divisions among member states as to the meaning of its founding values. The systemic violation of the principles enshrined in article 2 TEU by some member states has as an inevitable result the erosion of mutual trust among them. The evident crisis of the rule of law in some member states and the subsequent discussion regarding the limits of mutual trust have attracted the increased attention of academics, political decision-makers and the media at a national, European and international level. The research project "Mutual trust in times of crisis of EU values: State of play and possible next steps" aims at adding value to this ongoing discussion.

The purpose of the seminar is to present the results of the research project, which consist, on the one hand, of the analysis of the relevant bibliography and case-law and, on the other, of the development and analysis of a questionnaire addressed at lawyers, judges and legal professionals from the neighboring countries of Bulgaria and Romania, in order to assess the respect of the rule of law in those countries.

The event is addressed at academics, judges, lawyers, public officials and law students.