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NO. 7 (2025) THIRD MONOGRAPH: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS VALUES PRESENTATION

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With this seventh issue of *the Spanish Journal of Legislative Studies,* we conclude the series of monographs on "The European Union and its values" linked to the Jean Monnet Chair at Miguel Hernández University (UMH) *Strengthening the European Union by reinforcing its values (ReinforcEU)*, Ref. 101085550.

This issue, which includes a total of eight scientific articles, draws primarily on a selection of contributions that were presented at three scientific events in which the UMH Jean Monnet Chair participated during the 2024-25 academic year. These include, on the one hand, the *Advanced Interuniversity Seminar on European Union Research*. On the other hand, the *International Congress New Horizons for Human Rights in a Globalised World*, and, finally, the *Congress on Individuals, Society and Enterprise. Current Legal Issues*.

The third edition of *the Advanced Interuniversity Seminar on European Union Research,* organised by the UMH Jean Monnet Chair *ReinforcEU*, was held in two sessions in March and May 2025 (12 March and 15 May 2025). The Seminar, which is part of the UMH PhD Programme in Social and Legal Sciences, is a forum for inter-university and interdisciplinary scientific debate, and, in which researchers in training from different European and Latin American universities and research centers, as well as expert professors of recognized standing, exchange opinions and points of view and reflect together from different approaches and perspectives on topics of interest and relevance related to European Union values.

During both sessions of the 2025 Seminar, we enjoyed excellent presentations by experts, followed by presentations of papers by early-career researchers and by interesting and highly fruitful debates. The first session was devoted to reflecting on the relevance of values in the European Union's external action, while the second session focused on promoting dialogue on human rights between Europe and Latin America.

This issue of the *Spanish Journal of Legislative Studies (SJLS)* includes two papers presented by researchers participating in the aforementioned Seminar. The first is the study by PhD candidate *Gaetano Calcagno* of the Università degli Studi di Enna 'Kore', entitled 'Democracy and Promoting a Dialogue Between Europe and America'. The

second, is the paper entitled 'Animal Sentience and Criminal Law: Spain as a European model of reference compared to Latin America', presented by *José Ancor Viera González*, a research trainee at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

As already noted, this issue also includes a selection of papers and communications presented at two other significant scientific conferences.

Indeed, three articles stem from the *International Conference New Horizons for Human Rights in a Globalised World,* which took place on 19 June 2025 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Alcalá. The conference was organised by the University Institute for Research in Latin American Studies (IELAT) of the University of Alcalá in collaboration with the UMH (Jean Monnet Chair *ReinforcEU)*, the Nueva Granada Military University of Colombia, the National University of the Centre of the Province of Buenos Aires (UNICEN), the Bolivian Catholic University, and the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Universities for Integration (AUALCPI). This international conference constituted one of the actions of the R&D&I **project "Towards a new legal framework for socially responsible and sustainable investments: responses from international and European Union law"** (proyecto de I+D+i "Hacia un nuevo marco jurídico para las inversiones socialmente responsables y sostenibles: respuestas desde el Derecho internacional y de la Unión Europea"), Ref. PID2023-149020NB-I00, and was structured around four key thematic axes linking human rights to major contemporary challenges. Thus, the first panel addressed democratic memory and transitional justice, the second examined the current challenges to human rights posed by migratory flows, the third focused on the implications of corporate activities for human rights, and finally, the fourth panel was devoted to the analysis of another issue of growing importance: the relationship between human rights and the environment.

Three papers resulted from this International Conference. The first, presented *by Daniel Romera Mejías*, researcher in the Department of Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Seville was an analysis entitled "The impact of artificial intelligence on the protection of human rights in vulnerable contexts: risks and opportunities in the identification of missing persons and border management". The second was a study by *Emma Segelke*, a PhD candidate at the Autonomous University of Madrid and the University of Kent, entitled "Biocultural rights – an alternative to protect indigenous peoples' and local communities' holistic right to 'biocultural heritage'?". The third was a research study entitled "Srebrenica, thirty years on: genocide, transitional justice and the legal legacy of the ICTY in international law" by *Paula Cisneros*, Lecturer at the University Centre for Defence Studies at the Military Academy of Zaragoza.

This special issue of the journal also includes two further contributions that were presented at the *Congress on Individuals, Society and Enterprise. Current legal issues*, organised by the Department of Legal Science at the UMH and held from 10 to 15 July 2025. This conference provided a high-level forum for legal debate, reflection and dialogue, bringing together professors specializing in different branches of law from both national and international universities. It was structured around four round tables, addressing different topics that highlight the key changes that law must undergo to adapt to a constantly evolving society. Thus, discussions focused on criminal justice in times of technological revolution; business and human rights; democracy and

justice; and the evolution of family models and legislative responses to new social realities.

This conference resulted in the publication of two articles: "Origins of the labour movement in Elche: the 1903 espadrille-workers' strike" by *Celia Hernández Cañete*, Lecturer of Legal History at the University of Valencia, and "Surrogacy and disability: towards a rethinking of its regulation", by *Francisco Javier Hierro Hierro*, Full Professor of Labour and Social Security Law at the University of Extremadura.

This special issue concluded with the article entitled "*Are Spanish regulators constraining human procreative demands?*" by *Mario Monaco*, Lecturer of Commercial Law (Department of Public and Economic Law) at the University of Córdoba.

All the articles included in this issue were subject to an initial selection carried out by the Scientific Committees of the respective Seminar/Congress at which they were presented orally and were subsequently reviewed through a double-blind peer review process, in accordance with the Journal's established criteria.

I conclude this brief presentation of the seventh issue of the *SJLS* sincere thanks to all those who have actively contributed to making it possible. Authors, external reviewers and panelist at the three scientific events that gave rise to the contributions that comprise it. Special thanks are due to all the members of the scientific and organising committees of these events, whose dedication and efforts were essential and fundamental to their development. I would also like to thank all those who have collaborated, and continue to collaborate, with the UMH Jean Monnet Chair. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude and special recognition to *Rocío M. Pozo Tomás* for her outstanding coordination work, carried out with great commitment, care, and efficiency, and to the UMH's Innovation and Technological Planning Service, in particular *Federico Sabater Quinto* for his diligence and attention to detail in updating the journal's website and in the layout and design of the issue.

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