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INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

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Abstract: The geopolitical scenario generated by the Russian aggression against Ukraine continues to determine the international order and, in particular, the European context. This conflict at the external borders of the European Union (EU) has slowed down the timid post-Covid recovery process initiated in 2021, while adding more uncertainty. Apart from the colossal humanitarian emergency, the war in Ukraine is having a direct global economic impact, reflected primarily in the significant rise in inflation caused by rising energy prices and the intermittent disruption of international supply chains. However, even at a slower pace, the EU and the Member States keep on implementing their recovery plans, which began with the adoption of the Next Generation EU in 2020.

In this uncertain and evolving context, the EU strives to adopt measures that respond to new challenges. An example is the REPowerEU Plan, a new strategy adopted in May 2022, which includes additional financing, and with which the EU hopes to reduce its dependence on Russian oil and gas before 2030 and accelerate the green transition towards a climate-neutral European economy. As a relevant geopolitical gesture, it is to point out the recognition of Ukraine and Moldova as candidate countries to join the EU.

In addition to the usual case law commentary and European current affairs report signed by our faithful and valued collaborators, respectively, David Ordóñez Solís and Beatriz Iñarritu, the contributions included in this miscellaneous issue 67/2022 of *Deusto Journal of European Studies* deal with some of the challenges that the EU is currently facing.

Keywords: Ukraine, NATO, post-Soviet Space, Brexit, European defence, PESCO, Judaism, anti-Semitism, anti-Judaism

José Ángel López Jiménez, Doctor Lecturer of Public International Law and International Relations at the Pontificia University of Comillas, offers an in-depth analysis of the historical and geopolitical reasons that explain the current invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Under the title, “Ukraine: legal dilemmas and regional insecurity in the shared EU-Russia neighbourhood”, the article breaks down in detail the factors that have led to the current conflict, which began in 2014 with the Russian occupation of Crimea, as pointed out by the author. The analysis also assesses the role played to

date by regional actors, such as the EU and NATO, and the geostrategic tension that the conflict has generated in their relations with Russia. The article concludes by anticipating some possible scenarios and consequences derived from this territorial aggression, such as the potential return to a bloc confrontation or the review of the global governance system, with the reform of the United Nations already looming on the horizon.

Guillem Colom-Piella, Associate Professor of Political Science and Administration at Pablo de Olavide University, and **Beatriz Cózar-Murillo**, PhD candidate in Political and Legal Sciences at Pablo de Olavide University and the University of Ghent, delve into the evolution of the post-Brexit relations between the EU and the United Kingdom in the field of security and defence. In their article “European Union and United Kingdom: masters of their own destiny?”, the authors argue that Brexit has had various effects for both parties in terms of defence. For the EU, it is perhaps an opportunity to move towards a greater Europeanization of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), since the United Kingdom was always reluctant to this process due to its desire to preserve its preferential relations with the United States (US) and not weaken NATO. However, the EU has lost its main military power after Brexit, which could jeopardize progress towards its desired strategic autonomy. For London, leaving the EU offers an opportunity to take on global responsibilities and strengthen its alliance with the US, even at the risk of being held hostage by Washington in its ongoing strategic pulse with China. For this reason, the authors conclude, the EU and the United Kingdom are obliged to continue collaborating in a world polarized by the great powers’ rivalry. To do this, both parties must define a homogeneous framework, based on a common perception of risks and threats, as well as existing links in the military industry. The authors point out that these bridges of understanding should facilitate the accommodation of British participation in some CSDP mechanisms, such as the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

Alberto Priego, Doctor of International Relations at the Pontificia University of Comillas, delves into the European Strategy on combatting anti-Semitism and fostering Jewish life, assessing its potential to combat the wave of anti-Semitism sweeping Europe. Under the title “European Strategy against anti-Semitism and support for Jewish life. EU reaction to neo anti-Semitism”, the author first offers a review of the existing academic literature on anti-Semitism to analyse next the identity profiles of the Jewish community that has existed in Europe for centuries. Then, the growing anti-Semitic trend in Europe is explained. To this regard, the damages, the judicialized incidents and the terrorist acts are highlighted as evident dimensions of its existence. Next, the author analyses the scope and potential of the new European Strategy adopted in 2021 to prevent anti-Semitism and

ensure that Jewish life is ultimately recognized as one of the existing communities in Europe. The Strategy requires Member States to develop their own national strategies against anti-Semitism. It will be in application until 2030, so its impact will gradually be assessed as it is implemented.

About the autor

Beatriz Pérez de las Heras is Professor of European Union Law and Jean Monnet Chair on European Integration at the University of Deusto (UD). PhD in Law (UD), she accomplished post-graduate studies at the Centre Européen Universitaire de Nancy (France), where she obtained the DESS and DEA en Droit Communautaire. She was Director of the European Studies Institute at UD from 1996 to 2009, and Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on European Union Law and International Relations from 2013 to 2016. She also served as Vice-Dean for Research and International Relations at Deusto Faculty of Law from 2013 to 2015. She has been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Oregon (2009), Georgetown (2012), Fordham (2013), Boston College (2014) and Florida International University (2016). She is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Deusto Journal of European Studies* and Main Researcher of the “Integración Europea y Derecho Patrimonial” research team. She is author of various books and articles on European legal issues. As of September 2019, she is the Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project “European Union-Asia Pacific Dialogue: promoting European Integration and mutual Knowledge across Continents” (EUNAP).