

The European Legal System: Is Neoliberalism still on the Rise?

**A PANEL PROPOSAL
CES EUROPEAN LAW RESEARCH NETWORK**

It seems as if the old economic and social edifice of the European Union were at the verge of crumbling. The states have taken back some control. They incur enormous deficits of their budgets and reverse the liberal drift towards non-interference and privatization. What is more crucial: what once was considered as the totemic mantra of EU economic governance, the Stability and Growth Pact, is now being suspended *sine die*, or at least, while the pandemic lasts. At the same time that this is happening, the EU insists that the new coronavirus crisis is an opportunity to reignite the EU's economic and social engine, and that never before there was such a demand in favor of vertical European integration.

The resulting picture is a rather contradictory one. On the one hand, it might seem that we are in front of the end, or at least, of the beginning of the end, of what once was called "the European social and economic model", the specific blend of market liberalization and social state intervention that once

characterized the EU. On the other hand, it would seem that this development might lead to an impulse for more, and not less, *more-than liberal*, and even neoliberal, outcomes.

This panel will attempt to address the following questions. Is European (European Union) liberalism on demise? If so, is there an alternative model in perspective? Can Europe escape from the neoliberal *deus-ex-machina*? If it couldn't, would the new European neoliberalism on the rise be Chinese or American-like? And last, but not least: how can lawyers contribute to this debate?

Please contact Antonio Estella de Noriega (noriegas@der-pu.uc3m.es) Elena Gil González (elenagilglez@gmail.com) or Alexander Somek (alexander.somek@univie.ac.at) if you are interested in joining the panel.