



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

Protecting Liberal Democracy in Illiberal Times: Policy Experiences from Europe, Latin America and Africa

Florence, 15th-17th November 2017

Scientific Coordinator: Carlos Closa Montero | European University Institute and Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos (IPP)

Venue: Sala Europa, Villa Schifanoia, European University Institute

■ ABSTRACT

A significant number of regional, international and global organisations across the globe have equipped themselves with mechanisms for protecting democracy and the rule of law, assuming liberal-representative democracy as a standard condition for membership. Today, organisations such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the African Union are increasingly challenged by the rise of populist political discourses and the coexistence of a variety of authoritarianisms and defective democracies in their regions of influence. Participants in this Executive Training Seminar will acquire first-hand knowledge about the substantive content of the different mechanisms for the protection of democracy in regional organisations in Europe, America and Africa. They will also actively learn about the internal functioning of these organisations and the policy effects of their application by examining concrete case studies. Throughout the Executive Training Seminar, participants will have the opportunity to network with a set of top officials and experts from regional and international organisations, such as the African Union and Organization of American States, as well as with senior practitioners from NGOs and like-minded colleagues from all over the world.

■ PROGRAMME

15 November 2017

Chair	Carlos Closa Montero EUI and IPP
9.00 - 9.30	Institutional Greetings and Presentation of the Executive Training Seminar Renaud Dehousse President of the European University Institute Fabrizio Tassinari Executive Coordinator of the School of Transnational Governance Carlos Closa Montero EUI and IPP
9.30 - 11.00	Key Note Speech Suspending States from Regional Organisations for Breaches of Human Rights and Democracy: Is the Practice Legitimate? Alison Duxbury Melbourne Law School
11.00 - 11.30	<i>Coffee break (Sala Bandiere)</i>
11.30 - 13.00	The Role of the Organization of American States in Recent Democratic Crises in the Americas Jean Michel Arrighi OAS Secretary of Legal Affairs
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch (Sala Bandiere)</i>
14.00 - 15.30	Regional Organisations and Democratic Clauses: the Challenges Facing Latin American Democracies in Crisis Jorge E. Taiana MERCOSUR and CIEP-UNSAM
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break (Sala Bandiere)</i>
16.00-17.30	Training Session: Is the Right to Democracy Enforceable? Focus on Hard Cases in the Interamerican System Stefano Palestini Freie Universität Berlin
17.30 - 19.00	Training Session: Shopping around for Democracy-Protection: the Overlap between OAS, UNASUR and MERCOSUR Stefano Palestini Freie Universität Berlin

16 November 2017

Chair

Carlos Closa Montero | EUI and IPP

9.00 - 10.30

Development, Democracy and Peace in Africa: Current Challenges and Opportunities

Baso Sangqu | South African Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break (Sala Bandiere)

11.00 - 12.30

Training Session: **The African Union and Democratic Consolidation in Africa: Bridging the Gaps between Policy and Actions**

Samuel O. Oloruntoba | University of South Africa

12.30 - 13.30

Lunch (Sala Bandiere)

13.30 - 15.00

ECOWAS Democratic Governance Trends: Opportunities and Prospects

Eyesan E. Okorodudu | Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

15.00 - 16.30

Training Session: **Consolidating Democracy in West Africa: the ECOWAS Experience**

Babatunde T. Afolabi | Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

17 November 2017

Chair

Carlos Closa Montero | EUI and IPP

9.00 - 10.30

A Focus on the European Union

Danuta Hübner | European Parliament

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break (Sala Bandiere)

11.00 - 12.30

Training Session: **Learning from Past and Present Failures to Prevent Illiberal Regimes from Consolidating within the EU**

Laurent Pech | Middlesex University London

12.30 - 13.30

Farewell Lunch (Sala Bandiere)

13.30 - 15.30	Round Table Chair: Miguel Poiares Maduro Director of the School of Transnational Governance Protecting Liberal Democracy in Illiberal Times: Policy Experiences from Europe, Latin America and Africa
15.30 - 16.00	Final Remarks and Award of Certificates
16.00 - 17.00	<i>Farewell Cocktail (Sala Bandiere)</i>

■ FACULTY

Babatunde T. Afolabi	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Switzerland
Jean Michel Arrighi	Organization of American States, United States of America
Danuta Hübner	European Parliament (Poland), Belgium
Miguel Poiares Maduro	European University Institute, Italy
Carlos Closa Montero	European University Institute and Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Italy and Spain
Alison Duxbury	Melbourne Law School, Australia
Eyesan E. Okorodudu	Economic Community of West African States, Nigeria
Samuel O. Oloruntoba	University of South Africa, South Africa
Stefano Palestini	Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Laurent Pech	MiddleSex University London, United Kingdom
Baso Sangqu	Southfrican Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union, Belgium and Luxemburg
Jorge E. Taiana	MERCOSUR and Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos (CIEP) and Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), Argentina