



Call for Papers

The Law School at the University of Lincoln invites paper proposals for a one-day conference on Friday, 6 November 2009, on:

“The EU as a ‘global player’ in the field of human rights”

The 2008 *Kadi*-decision of the European Court of Justice is presently discussed as possibly creating a conflict between UN and EU law. But at the very least, it has drawn international attention to the question of human rights protection by the EU. Human rights and the rule of law are regarded as cornerstones of the EU, playing a key role in the internal order and with regard to accession. Official publications promote this role internationally, and the legalistic approach of the EU has been contrasted with the projection of political and military power by the USA, Russia or China. But to what extent does this reflect reality when it comes to the protection of human rights on the global level? Does the EU exert as much external influence in the promotion of human rights as it does economically? Is EU human rights law internationally ‘relevant’?

This conference aims to contribute to the discussion whether the EU is a significant human rights organization by taking stock of why practitioners, academics and students in other parts of the world should be aware of the protection of human rights by the EU. This could include issues of institutions, substantive law and case studies, or any other topic related to the theme of the conference, e.g.: Is the promotion of human rights through ‘dialogues’, trade sanctions or as part of international EU-missions effective? Does the EU speak with a *de facto* common voice at the UN, the ICC, etc.? Are EU human rights law and the ECHR converging into a single regime of world-wide importance? Has ‘European regional customary law’ emerged in the field of human rights?

Proposals are invited from practitioners, academics and doctoral students, and from the perspectives of both law and political science. Panel papers will be selected on the basis of abstracts of ca. 250 words. A limited number of further papers can be presented in poster form during the conference. The abstracts should include paper title, contributor’s name, e-mail address, professional or academic affiliation and a brief CV. They should be submitted by e-mail to jwetzel@lincoln.ac.uk by 20 July 2009. Notification on the outcome of submissions will be given by the end of July. A draft version would be expected prior to the conference for internal circulation. Publication of the papers is intended. Registration fees will be waived for those whose papers are selected for panels or posters. The opening speech of the conference will be given by Dr. Richard Burchill (University of Hull).

Lincoln, renown for its cathedral and home to an original of the Magna Carta, lies in the heart of the East Midlands and can be reached within 2 hours from London (train from King’s Cross), Leeds or Sheffield, and within 1 hour from Nottingham, Hull, or Peterborough. The university is located close to the train station and the town centre.

Jan Erik Wetzel
Senior Lecturer
University of Lincoln Law School