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## **JEAN MONNET CHAIR “EUROPEAN UNION LAW OF THE SEA”**

**(REFERENCE: 101047678 — SEALAW)**

### **REPORT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Jean Monnet Chair “European Union law of the sea” (reference: 101047678 — SEALAW) aims to promote the teaching, research, information, and dissemination of European Unions’ (EU’s) values on the law of the sea and its impact on Galicia. It seeks to deal with the EU’s role as a maritime actor in a globalized world, enhancing awareness of the EU and facilitating people-to-people dialogue.

It is currently the only one Chair on law of the sea in Spain. This branch of law is especially relevant for this EU’s Member State in general and Galicia in particular. As is well-known, Spain's maritime coastline is the second largest of the EU Member States and Galicia, is a peripheral region of the EU that is highly dependent on the sea and fishing.

This Jean Monnet Chair has counted on the logistical support of “Salvador de Madariaga” University Institute of European Studies (IUEE) within the University of A Coruña. The holder of the Chair (prof. Gabriela A. Oanta) is the IUEE’s Director and all the members of the Chair are also IUEE’s members. Therefore, the Chair has benefited from the institutional and human framework of high scientific and professional quality in order to promote active European citizenship and values, and deal with the role of the EU in a globalized world, enhancing awareness of the EU and facilitating future engagement as well as people-to-people dialogue.

#### **IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES**

During its third year of activity (December 2023-November 2024), this Chair has acted as a reference point for the promotion of innovative courses on EU law of the sea for bachelor’s and master’s students of EU studies or who have not come automatically into contact with EU studies. Furthermore, the number of people, benefiting from this Chair, has been extremely large and diverse: authorities and public administration competent in matters related to the sea, private entities with interests in the field of fishing and navigation (foundations, ship-owners associations), lawyers, professionals in the sector, students (Bachelor, Master, PhD) and society in general. It has succeeded in giving the EU law of the sea greater visibility, raising its profile in society as a whole and expand the channels

of information, training and dissemination of specific issues related to the EU's activities at sea. It is considered that these positive effects will also be visible after this Chair will be finished.

All the activities carried out during the third year of implementation of the Chair have been published on the website ([www.udc.es/catedrajeanmonnet\\_derechouemar](http://www.udc.es/catedrajeanmonnet_derechouemar)) and the YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXbWsvzGohcAFH\\_riVf\\_d8w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXbWsvzGohcAFH_riVf_d8w)) created for this purpose as well as on the website of the IUEE ([www.udc.es/iuee](http://www.udc.es/iuee)) and other forms of dissemination managed by this university center.

The activities conducted during this period have been as follows:

- A. Teaching activities (for pupils and students of bachelor's and master's degrees):** The classes have taken place at different Schools and Faculties in different campuses of the University of A Coruña. The classes have been taught in Spanish or in English, according to the Working Plan.
- B. E-course on maritime studies (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.):** This academic offer has known again an excellent reception from the civil society of various countries in Latin America and Europe. The classes have been carried out through the MS TEAMS platform from 17 April to 30 June 2024.
- C. Summer Course on “European Union’s action on the ecological and digital transition at sea” (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.):** The classes have taken place onsite at the Port Authority of A Coruña during the second week of July 2024. It has been attended by students at the University of A Coruña and other members of the civil society at large, who wanted to get a deep training on topics related to the ecological and digital transition at sea and the European Union’s action in these fields.
- D. Seminars on relevant topics for the EU law of the sea:** See the website and YouTube channel that have been specifically created for this Jean Monnet Chair.
- E. Keynote speeches via Streaming:** Well-known professors, who are real experts on the international and European Union law of the sea, have given keynote speeches on various topics of the current state of development and challenges facing the law of the sea. The keynote speeches are available on the SEALAW’s website ([https://udc.es/gl/catedrajeanmonnet\\_derechouemar/conferencias-y-webinars/lecciones-magistrales/](https://udc.es/gl/catedrajeanmonnet_derechouemar/conferencias-y-webinars/lecciones-magistrales/)) and on the Youtube channel created for the SEALAW Chair (<https://www.youtube.com/@catedrajmduemar>).
- F. Study visits to maritime institutions in A Coruña:** Students, who have been enrolled in various of the above-mentioned activities, have had the opportunity to visit three maritime institutions linked to the maritime professional environment

that are settled in A Coruña, namely the external Port of A Coruña, the Port Authority of A Coruña, and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

**G. International conferences on sea-related issues of great topicality for the EU:**

Two international conferences have been organized, the first one at the University of A Coruña and the second at the “Ovidius” University of Constanta (Romania), thus:

- *International Conference “The Presence of International Organizations in the Evolution of the International Law of the Sea: Thirty Years since the Entry into Force of UNCLOS* – held at the University of A Coruña on 23 February 2024, with the support of the European Society of International Law (ESIL). The speakers and chairs were 19 professors from 18 universities within eight different European countries (namely, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom). English was the working-language of the Conference. The scientific results of this event will be published in the book: OANTA, G.A. (ed.), *The Presence of International Organizations in the Evolution of the International Law of the Sea: Thirty Years since the Entry into Force of UNCLOS*, Brill, Queen Mary Studies in International Law, vol. 58, 2025 (forthcoming); ISBN: 978-90-04-71631-5.
- *8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary AssIDMer Conference “The Black Sea at a Legal Crossroads: Perspectives from the International Law, European Union Law, and National Law”* – held at the “Ovidius” University of Constanta (Romania) on 27-28 June 2024. This Conference was organized as the third international conference of the SEALAW Chair, in collaboration with the International Association for the Law of the Sea (AssIDMer), “Titu Maiorescu” University of Bucharest and “Ovidius” University of Constanta. 23 professors from five different European countries and from Japan participated to this international event, which took place in the Black Sea area – that is highly sensitive due to the armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation – and on different topics which are of great relevance for the Black Sea area. The scientific results of this Conference will be published in the book in Open Access: OANTA, G.A. and TABARAS, M. (eds.), *The Black Sea at a Legal Crossroads: Perspectives from the International Law, European Union Law, and National Law*, Editoriale Scientifica, Napoli, 2025 (en prensa).

**H. Publication (as a deliverable, as Open Access) of the book:** OANTA, G.A.; MKRTICHYAN MINSASYAN, A.; TEIRA FACHADO, A., *Textos y materiales para el estudio del Derecho de la Unión Europea del Mar*, JM Bosch Editor, Barcelona, 2024, 2.069 pg. ISBN ebook: 978-84-10044-86-9. ISBN Vol. I: 978-84-10044-42-5; IBSN Vol. II: 978-84-10044-43-2

**I. Publication of other books, book chapters and articles on different topics related to the EU law of the sea:** All the members of the SEALAW Chair have also published books, book chapters and articles on the main topic of this Jean Monnet action.