



Conferencia
sobre el **Futuro**
de **Europa**

CITIZEN DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG UC STUDENTS: VALUES AND RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY

Date : 2 November 2021

Place : Faculty of Law, UC

The rule of law is one of the fundamental values on which the European Union is based. It is not an abstract concept. The rule of law has a direct impact on the lives of all citizens: it implies that all members of a society, including governments and parliaments, are equally subject to the law and subject to the control of independent and impartial courts.

The rule of law is under threat in several EU countries, even though the EU is founded on respect for the rule of law. In recent years, attacks on the independence of judges, political opponents, minorities and the media, especially in Eastern European countries, have cast doubt on whether respect for the rule of law is a reality in the bloc as a whole. The values on which the European project is founded have therefore been undermined in recent years within the EU itself.

"Nothing is possible without people, but nothing is permanent without institutions", wrote Jean Monnet in his memoirs. This institutionalist vision, however, leaves aside the values that inspire the Union. Monnet stated that the European Economic Community was based on the separation of powers, but article 2 of the current Treaty on European Union is even more ambitious: it establishes its foundation on values such as democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Adherence to these values and their guarantee through institutional reforms is an accession requirement for third countries wishing to join the Union.

The debate will focus on four pillars: the judicial system, the anti-corruption framework, media pluralism and other institutional issues related to powers control and balance.

PROGRAMME

10.30 a.m. Inauguration by **Paula Fernández Viaña**, Regional Minister of the Presidency, Interior, Justice and External Action of the Government of Cantabria and **Angel Pazos**, Rector of the University of Cantabria.

10h45 Introductory speeches:

Francisco Fonseca, Professor of International and European Law at the University of Valladolid and former Deputy Director General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission;

Francisco Aldecoa, President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement, Professor of International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair. Member of COFE.

Ángel Pelayo González-Torre, Professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Cantabria and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Cantabria.

11.30 am Citizens' dialogue with students of the University of Cantabria on four topics

- the judicial system,
- the framework for the fight against corruption,
- media pluralism
- and other institutional issues related to the control and balance of powers.

Speakers: **Alvaro Moreda Gómez**, President of the Student Council of the University of Cantabria, **Yago Nan Fernández Ayala**, Graduate in Law and Political Science, **Alvaro Senties de Beraza**, Student of the Degree in Business Administration and Management at the University of Cantabria and Treasurer and Member of Erasmus of the CEUC, and **Andrea González Valle**, Graduate in Law, University of Cantabria.

13h00 Conclusions based on the main messages gathered during the debate.

13h15 Closing

Description:

The aim of the Citizens' Dialogue on the Rule of Law in the EU is that both UC students and other young Cantabrians have the opportunity to establish a dialogue with specialists in the field, political representatives, and express their opinions and expectations about the area of freedom, justice and security to which the European Union aspires.

The fact that this dialogue is being held at the University is intended to serve as a point of reference for reflection, dialogue and a dynamic element in the immediate environment of young Cantabrians. Within the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the University must create spaces for meeting, connection and exchange from which ideas can emerge to feed the joint work of building the Europe of the future.

This dialogue will be the second of many other events to be organised by the Regional Ministry of the Presidency, Interior, Justice and External Action of the Government of Cantabria to contribute to informing, communicating and discussing the future of the European Union.