

**EFS Top-Level Seminar 2025**

# EU Customs Law: Recent Developments and Outlook

▶ 3-day programme, 18 – 20 June 2025

Frank Heijmann  
Claudia Buysing Damsté  
Stefano Mauro  
Prof. Dr. Madeleine Merkx  
Mark van Driel  
Dr. Martijn Schippers  
Arnoud Willems  
Ilona van den Eijnde  
Prof. Dr. Joost Pauwelyn  
Dr. Anna Jerzewska  
George Riddell  
Prof. Dr. Maarten de Wilde  
Patricio Diaz Gavier  
Prof. Dr. Walter de Wit

# EFS Top-Level Seminar on EU Customs Law: Recent Developments and Outlook



## EFS, Erasmus University Rotterdam

EFS, Erasmus University Rotterdam is a partnership between the tax departments of the Erasmus University Rotterdam's Schools of Law and Economics. EFS has been a leading education and research institute in the areas of international and European taxation for 35 years. Its work concentrates on the operation of indirect taxes, covering both VAT and customs duties, and direct taxes, focusing on individual taxation, corporate taxation and source taxation in an international and/or European context. As well as regularly hosting academic symposia, conferences and lectures, EFS offers a wide range of programmes and top-level seminars.

## Erasmus University Rotterdam

Erasmus University Rotterdam is a global, top-100 research university, where ambitious students prepare for an excellent career. It is one of the biggest universities in the Netherlands, with a student population of around 29,000 and a research community of around 1,600. On the lively and modern campus, students are constantly encouraged to develop their talents and achieve their ambitions in international classrooms of more than 100 nationalities. Its intensive, career-oriented and research-driven degree programmes are matched by an excellent student life in the dynamic and diverse city of Rotterdam. The university's research is strongly focused on societal impact, specifically on health, wealth, governance and culture.

**Initiatives to reform the EU Customs Union, the enactment of ESG-related trade regulations, trade conflicts, changes in customs valuation and Free Trade Agreement developments, along with fresh case law from the Court of Justice of the European Union, are among the numerous elements influencing the constantly evolving landscape of customs practices.**

The EFS 3-day top-level seminar on 'EU Customs Law, Recent Developments and Outlook' (in English) will ensure you are fully up-to-date with all the important developments in your field. As well as hearing talks by and participating in discussions with prestigious speakers – Frank Heijmann, Claudia Buysing Damsté, Stefano Mauro, Prof. Dr. Madeleine Merckx, Mark van Driel, Dr. Martijn Schippers, Arnoud Willems, Ilona van den Eijnde, Prof. Dr. Joost Pauwelyn, Dr. Anna Jerzewska, George Riddell, Prof. Dr. Maarten de Wilde, Patricio Diaz Gavier and Prof. Dr. Walter de Wit – you will also have the opportunity to engage in discussions with your peers.

## KEY BENEFITS

- Intensive 3-day programme
- In-depth, interactive sessions
- Max. 25 participants
- Bridging theory and practice
- International networking

EFS is pleased to invite you and other top specialists from customs advisory services, legal practice, the judiciary, government bodies, customs authorities, and academia to discuss the customs implications of a wide range of topical issues, including measures recently implemented or soon to be implemented across the EU, in an informal setting.

On the first day of the seminar, we will delve into the latest developments around the innovative proposals championed by the European Commission for the reform of the EU Customs Union. The Parliament has adopted its position on the major reform of the Union Customs Code beginning of 2024, while the proposal is still being discussed by the Council. The Customs Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of The Netherlands to the European Union, and speakers from business associations, and academia will discuss the progress of negotiations and the proposed changes, which also involve some possible changes to the VAT Directive. On the same day, the European Delegated Prosecutor at the European Public Prosecutor's Office will explain their work and the importance of the European Public Prosecutor's Office for the customs affairs.

The second day will be allocated to dialogues on the recent customs valuation developments. The spotlight will be on

critical and emerging matters such as undervaluation and determining the customs value in a series of sales. These topics have gained significant attention due to recent widely publicized customs claims received by apparel companies and the ongoing ECJ cases involving Massimo Dutti and Compañía de Distribución Integral Logista. Despite ubiquitous geopolitical tensions, the world is observing a continuous establishment of Free Trade Agreements. We will discuss the recent trends and bring you up to date with the prevalent issues revolving around Free Trade Agreements. As a prelude to the discussions on the third day, attention will also be given to the latest developments in trade defence measures, including anti-dumping, anti-subsidy/ countervailing, safeguards, and anti-circumvention investigations. Additionally, the second day will encompass dialogues about the novel occurrences in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects. The implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and deforestation regulations have been activated, necessitating their incorporation in the supply chain. We will elaborate on the present circumstances and examine the practical and legal complications associated with these recent developments.

The third day will commence with a session on navigating trade in times of global tensions. This session will focus on the (anticipated) Trump Tariffs and the (expected) countermeasures by other countries, how businesses navigate during times of global tension, and how direct tax policies can also impact trade. The final session ensures you are fully familiarized with the pertinent transformations in the Court of Justice case law.

All sessions are designed to offer ample opportunity for in-depth discussions on each topic covered. As we wrap up the seminar, we'll take time to collectively reflect on the matters discussed and draw broad conclusions.

If you are looking to update and expand your highly specialized knowledge and to network with other leading professionals, sign up now for the EFS top-level seminar on 'EU Customs Law: Recent Developments and Outlook' to be held at the Erasmus University Rotterdam on 18 – 20 June 2025.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Rotterdam.



Kind regards,

**Prof. Dr. Walter de Wit**  
Seminar Director

# Programme | 18 – 20 June 2025

Day 1		Wednesday, 18 June 2025	
12.00-12.30	<b>Arrival of participants at Erasmus University Rotterdam</b>		
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch at 'Erasmus Paviljoen'</b>		
13.30-13.45		<b>PROF. DR. WALTER DE WIT</b> Full Professor at Erasmus School of Law / Seminar Director EFS / Judge at High Court of The Hague	<b>Opening and welcome address</b>
		<b>DR. MARTIJN SCHIPPERS</b> Associate Professor at Erasmus School of Law / Seminar Coordinator EFS / Senior Manager at EY, The Netherlands	
13.45-15.00		<b>FRANK HEIJMANN</b> Counsellor Customs Permanent Representation of The Netherlands to the European Union	<b>Proposals to reform the EU Customs Union</b>
		<b>STEFANO MAURO</b> Policy Director at Ecommerce Europe	
		<b>PROF. DR. MERKX</b> Professor Erasmus School of Law / Board member and Programme Director EFS / Partner BDO	
15.00-15.15	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>		
15.15-16.45		<b>FRANK HEIJMANN</b>  <b>STEFANO MAURO</b>  <b>PROF. DR. MADELEINE MERKX</b>	<b>Proposals to reform the EU Customs Union (cont.)</b>
16.45-17.00	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>		
17.00-18.00		<b>MARK VAN DRIEL</b> European Delegated Prosecutor at the European Public Prosecutor Office	<b>Introduction to the customs affairs of the European Public Prosecutor Office</b>
18.00	<b>End of programme and return to hotel</b>		
19.00	<b>Departure to restaurant</b>		
19.30	<b>Dinner at In den Rustwat, Rotterdam</b>		





**Day 2 Thursday, 19 June 2025**

08.45	<b>Participants arrive at lecture room</b>	
09.00-10.30	 <b>DR. MARTIJN SCHIPPERS</b> Associate Professor at Erasmus School of Law / Seminar Coordinator EFS / Senior Manager at EY, The Netherlands	<b>Customs valuation update</b>
10.30-10.00	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>	
11.00-12.30	 <b>ARNOUD WILLEMS</b> Partner Baker & McKenzie	<b>Developments in trade defence measures (i.e., anti-dumping, anti-subsidy / countervailing, safeguards, and anti-circumvention investigations)</b>
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch at 'Erasmus Paviljoen'</b>	
13.30-14.30	 <b>CLAUDIA BUYSING DAMSTÉ</b> Partner PwC	<b>Updates on Free Trade Agreements</b>
14.30-14.45	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>	
14.45-15.45	 <b>ILONA VAN DEN EIJNDE</b> Senior Manager at EY, US / PhD Candidate Erasmus School of Law	<b>Update on EU instruments aimed at sustainable trade (i.e., CBAM, EUDR, CSRD)</b>
	 <b>PROF. DR. JOOST PAUWELYN</b> Professor of Law, Geneva Graduate Institute / Founding Partner, Cassidy Levy Kent (CLK) Europe	
15.45-16.00	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>	
16.00-17.00	<b>ILONA VAN DEN EIJNDE</b>  <b>PROF. DR. JOOST PAUWELYN</b>	<b>Update on EU instruments aimed at sustainable trade (i.e., CBAM, EUDR, CSRD) (cont.)</b>
17.00	<b>End of programme and return to hotel</b>	
18.00	<b>Departure to the Euromast</b>	
18.30	<b>Drinks and dinner with speakers at the Euromast</b>	



### Day 3

Friday, 20 June 2025

08.45

Participants arrive at lecture room

09.00-10.00



**DR. ANNA JERZEWSKA**

Founder of Trade and Borders / Chief Knowledge Officer at CustomsClear / EuroCommerce Rapporteur on Customs / Customs and International Trade Lead at Cbamboo

**Navigating Trade in Times of Global Tensions**



**GEORGE RIDDELL**

Director EY, UK



**PROF. DR. MAARTEN DE WILDE**

Professor at Erasmus School of Law / Seminar Director EFS / Director PwC

10.00-10.30

Coffee and tea break

10.30-12.00

**DR. ANNA JERZEWSKA**

**GEORGE RIDDELL**

**PROF. DR. MAARTEN DE WILDE**

**Navigating Trade in Times of Global Tensions (cont.)**

12.00-13.00

Lunch at 'Erasmus Paviljoen'

13.00-15.00



**PATRICIO DIAZ GAVIER**

Customs Lawyer and Litigator – Diaz Gavier

**Recent ECJ cases in customs, excise and import-VAT matters**



**PROF. DR. WALTER DE WIT**

Erasmus School of Law / Seminar Director EFS / High Court of The Hague

15.00-15.30

Wrap up, closing remarks, conclusions and certificates awarded to participants

15.30

Meeting and drinks at 'Erasmus Paviljoen'

# Programme Management



## ◀ PROF. DR. WALTER DE WIT

Programme Director /  
EFS Board Member

Walter de Wit is Professor of European and International Customs Law at the Erasmus School of Law. He is also a judge at the High Court of The Hague.



## ◀ DR. MARTIJN SCHIPPERS

Programme Coordinator

Martijn Schippers is Associate Professor at the Erasmus School of Law and is specialized in EU Customs Law. He is also a Senior Manager at EY and is part of EY's Global Trade and Sustainability Group in the Netherlands.



## Rotterdam

With a population of over 600,000, Rotterdam is the second largest city in the Netherlands and the centre of the Rotterdam–The Hague metropolitan area. With residents of over 170 different nationalities, Rotterdam is a truly multicultural city. From Brazilian, Polish and Iranian restaurants to African and Asian supermarkets: you'll find it all in Rotterdam.

Rotterdam is famous for having the largest port in Europe, while the River Maas also runs through the 'skyscraper city'. And behind the modern skyline, with its innovative and *avant garde* architecture, you'll find an atmospheric and historic city centre.

The city's international character is also reflected in its cultural activities, including the international art exhibited at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (currently closed for refurbishment) and the Kunsthal. Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen has opened in September 2021 and is the first art storage facility in the world that offers access to a museum's complete collection. Every January you can watch movies from all around the world during the International Film Festival, while in summer you can enjoy the Summer Carnival and the North Sea Jazz festival.

# General information

## Dates

From Wednesday 18 June (12.00 hrs) to Friday 20 June (16.00 hrs) 2025.

## Venue

The seminar will be held at the Erasmus University Rotterdam campus, Woudestein.

## Accommodation

EFS can arrange hotel accommodations for you. EFS has made arrangements with the hotel located right next to the Erasmus University. Part of that arrangement is a reduction on the room rate. If you wish to make use of this possibility please indicate this on the course registration form. EFS will then increase the course price by the cost of the hotel accommodation. Due to the agreements EFS has made with Novotel, the hotel costs are also due if the reservation for the hotel accommodation is cancelled within one month before the start of the course. If registration for hotel accommodation is made within one month before the course, EFS and Novotel cannot guarantee that a hotel room is available and a different (higher) room rate may apply. We further to our general terms and conditions which apply to hotel accommodation arranged by EFS for the course participant.

The amounts for hotel accommodation are as follows, per night: € 207,-. (Wednesday to Friday).

## Fee

€ 2,850 (including all seminar materials and meals).

## Language

The seminar will be in English.

## Target Group

EFS looks forward to welcoming experienced indirect tax specialists who want to discuss recent and future developments in customs and to network with peers from the following backgrounds:

- customs advisory services (senior managers, directors and partners)
- multinationals (senior customs managers and heads of customs)
- legal practice (associates and partners)
- judicial authorities (judges in customs at courts of first instance or higher/supreme courts)
- government bodies (senior policy advisors and heads)
- customs authorities (heads of customs)
- academia (PhD researchers and assistant, associate and full professors)

## Group size

As the group will comprise a maximum of 25 participants, you can be assured of optimal and active participation.

## Disclaimer

EFS reserves the right to change the policy, programme, fees and any other items referred to in this brochure.

## Accreditation / Continuing professional development

The programme is accredited and you will therefore be eligible for continuing professional development ('Permanent Education') points in line with the rules applied by your own professional organisation. This programme comprises 16 hours of tax-related study, based on the professional development required by the Dutch Association of Tax Advisers. You can find more information about this on the EFS website and on the website of your professional organisation.

## Certificate

All participants will receive a certificate of attendance issued by EFS, Erasmus University Rotterdam.



### Contact / To apply

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Martijn Schippers

*Programme Coordinator, Top-Level Seminar EU Customs*

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