EURISGA
The European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs

Universiteit Leiden
Institute of Security and Global Affairs

EURISGA JEAN MONNET LECTURE 2025

"The European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs: A review of the Danish EU Council Presidency and ways ahead"

Delivered by

Ambassador Ulf Melgaard

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW

In Combination with the Award of the Leiden University Europe Hub Thesis Prize 2025

8 December 2025

Wijnhaven Campus, Leiden University, The Hague

Spanish Steps

Co-funded by the European Union

The European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs: A review of the Danish EU Council Presidency and ways ahead

Background and Context

From 1st July 2025 to 31st December 2025 Denmark has held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a crucial moment for the EU's policies in the field of security, but also for Europe's wider relations with international partners and organisations. The Danish Presidency Programme has sought to advance two main priorities. Firstly, a secure Europe (particularly in the light of Russia's ongoing full-scale invasion of Ukraine). Secondly, a competitive and green Europe.

Also, it's a priority for Denmark to promote effective multilateralism within the United Nations system at a time when the international legal order, peace, human rights and global justice are severely undermined.

This Jean Monnet Lecture event, co-organized by the Jean Monnet Chair on the EU's role in Security and Global Affairs (EURISGA) and Leiden University's Europe Hub, will offer an opportunity to review the achievements and challenges of the Danish Presidency and identify ways ahead for the European Union's role in security and global affairs.

The event will also feature the award of the 2025 MA Thesis prize of Leiden University's Europe Hub and will round off with a light reception.

Registration

Attendance is free, but registration is required. Please register via this link by 1st December 2025.

For further information, contact Professor Joachim Koops at j.a.koops@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

Programme:

17.30 –	Welcome by Professor Joachim Koops, Jean Monnet Chair, EURISGA, Leiden University
17.35 – 18.05	Lecture by Ambassador Ulf Melgaard
18.05 – 18.45	Q&A
18.45 – 19.00	Award of the Europe Hub MA Thesis Prize 2025
19.00 – 19.30	Reception

About the Jean Monnet Lecturer 2025:

Ambassador Ulf Melgaard has been the ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW since August 2024. He has had a 20-year career as a diplomat thus far, including positions such as Director of the International Law and Human Rights unit at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Deputy Head of Department on EU Law.

Co-funded by the European Union

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