



COURSE 1. UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDAMENTALS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you to the first course in our new three-part MOOC series on European Business law. If this is your first visit, we recommend that you begin by reading this document as it gives a good overview and provides instructions how to navigate the course. After that we suggest that you simply begin with the Introduction Module and then continue in the order of the course. But please feel free to browse around at your own liking and pace.

The Course Series

Like we mentioned above, we have created a new MOOC series called European Business law. This first course is entitled **Understanding the Fundamentals**, and will give you a thorough understanding of the basics of the European Union, its institutions and its legal framework. We will discuss a wide array of topics, ranging from the history of the EU to the constitutional dynamics that govern the relationships between the Union and the Member States. Of course, principal subjects relevant for doing business in Europe, such as the economic freedoms will be dealt with in some detail.

The second and third courses in the series will be released later in 2016 and are called **Doing Business in Europe**, and **Competing in Europe**. The former will deal with specific fields of European Business law essential for anyone considering any sort of business relationship in Europe. The latter will cover the specifics of European Competition Law and Intellectual Property law. All three courses can be taken independently or in sequence depending on your needs and preferences. We hope you will join us as we release the second and third parts of the series.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is divided into five modules, each module representing about one week. Lectures and in-video quizzes are the main method of teaching. In order to give you an overview and ease your learning, we have included a *Compendium* in each module. In these you will find information about the module

and an overview of all lectures. In some module you will also find a list of non-mandatory readings, key legislation and case law.

Each module finishes with a graded quiz. ***Please note that Module 4 also contains a peer graded assignment in addition to the quiz.*** You can read more about quizzes and assignments below.

Module 1. Introduction to EU law

The first module will give you an introduction to the history and institutions of the EU. Also the specific legal method of the European Union will be covered in some detail.

Module 2. Legal Resources

The second module is slightly different from the rest of the course as it doesn't deal with substantive law or legal principles. The entire module is devoted to navigating the vast databases of different legislation and case law. This knowledge is a must for anyone who will deal with any aspect of EU law. The module can be used as reference when you continue your studies of European Business law.

Module 3. Fundamental Principles and Constitutional Foundations

In the third module you will learn about the fundamental principles and constitutional foundations of EU law. The dynamic and interaction of the national law of the Member States and the EU will be covered in some detail.

Module 4. The Economic Freedoms

The fourth Module will deal with the economic freedoms. The freedom of movement of capital, services, people and goods is at the very heart of EU law and crucial to understanding the law from a business perspective. While the lectures focus on the free of movement of capital, services and goods, the readings will include additional material on the free movement of persons and establishment. This module contains a peer graded assignment in addition to the quiz.

Module 5. The External Dimension

The fifth and last module will deal with the legal framework of the common European foreign policy. This is a complex field where the policies of the individual Member States and the EU overlap and interact. The external dimension is important to understand for anyone considering international trade or relations with the EU.

COMPENDIUMS AND ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Each module includes a compendium that includes information mentioned in the lectures such as a list of legislation and case law, as well as a non-mandatory reading list. The compendium will allow you to fully focus on listening to your lectures, safely knowing that the key information will be provided in these documents.

The readings gives references to books, articles and journals, which are examples of useful material related to the subject at hand. There might also be a reference to useful links. The layout of the compendium varies slightly between modules; some of the instructors have chosen to include general guidelines, while others have kept it rather short and concise. At times the readings will refer to a specific lecture in order to assist you further. If you found a certain topic particularly interesting, the readings might be useful in order for you to find out more about the topic and do your own research.

QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes

Each module finishes with a graded, multiple answer quiz. The quiz consists of ten questions that have been drafted by the lecturers of the particular module. The questions are intended to assess your understanding of the particular topics discussed in the lectures. In order to pass the quiz, you must obtain a score of **at least 70%**. If you wish to pass the course and receive a Certificate, you must pass all five quizzes.

Honors Track Assignment

Module 4 also contains a peer graded Honors Assignment in addition to the graded quiz. This is a short, essay style assignment that will be reviewed and graded by your classmates. The assignment isn't mandatory, but rather a part of the optional Honors Track. Learners who complete the assignment, in addition to meeting the primary passing requirements for the course, will receive an Honors designation on their Course Certificate. You will also be required to grade a number of your peers in order to pass. A score of at least 60% is required to pass the assignment.

Although the Honors Assignment is optional, we highly recommend that you complete the assignment as it is a great opportunity to practice what you have learnt throughout the course and to get valuable feed-back from your peers. In addition, successfully completing the assignment means that you will receive special recognition if you decide to issue a final certificate for the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, you will have a basic understanding of how to:

- ✓ Navigate EU legal sources
- ✓ Understand relevant laws and regulations governing the internal European Union market
- ✓ Apply the fundamental principles of EU law within the EU legal framework
- ✓ Utilise the rules of freedom of movement and direct their impacts on trade in the EU
- ✓ Interrelate EU law with national laws
- ✓ Research EU policies and their influence on foreign trade and investment

GRADING AND CERTIFICATES

If you wish to obtain a certificate from Coursera that you have taken this course, you must pass all five required quizzes and the assignment, *and* create an identity profile consisting of a valid photo ID (provided as a webcam photo of the ID), a clear face photo, and a typing sample. Also you must pay the established fee and pass all the required quizzes and assignments. Don't forget that you can apply to Coursera for financial aid.

Please refer all technical questions concerning verification of identity to Coursera's Learner Help Center.

FORUMS AND SUPPORT

The forums are the main method of communication in the course. This is a good place to throw out any questions about the course content. We like to encourage learner participation and interaction, and our experience is that the forums provide a valuable resource for further learning. You can also use the forums to get support and help concerning technical issues. Our staff monitors the forums daily and will participate in the discussions when needed.

Don't forget to join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eblmooc/>