



CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of Law



Ministry of Justice  
of the Czech Republic



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The Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, the Department of Criminal Law – Faculty of Law of Charles University, the Czech Bar Association and the Union of Defense Attorneys of the Czech Republic would like to cordially invite you to the international scientific conference

## **Balance and Perspective of EU Criminal Law and its Application in the Member States**

held on **26 September 2022** (Monday)  
on the premises of Karolinum, Ovocný trh 560/5, Prague 1

Over the last twenty-five years, the area of security and justice has undergone progressive developments in response to the increasing incidence of transnational and sophisticated crime, which gave rise to new issues, challenges and problems with a European dimension. Following the incorporation of justice and home affairs among the EU's competences by the 1993 Maastricht Treaty, the greatest changes were brought in 1999 by the Treaty of Amsterdam on the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice, and in particular, by the Lisbon Treaty of October 2007, which included judicial and police cooperation in the field where competences are shared between the EU and the Member States. Many individual aspects of substantive and procedural criminal law have been harmonized since then based on Articles 82 and 83 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, in particular in the form of directives laying down the minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offenses and sanctions with regard to exceptionally serious crime involving a cross-border dimension (e.g. terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering or organized crime). The Lisbon Treaty was followed by several accompanying strategic programs, notably the ambitious Stockholm Program and, subsequently, the so-called Post-Stockholm Program. Article 86 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU then served as a basis for the long-discussed establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. This office helps primarily to protect the EU's financial interests via effective law enforcement in Europe, using direct repressive powers against individuals. As a result of gradual Europeanisation, today's EU criminal law has many legal institutions and tools at its disposal to ensure an effective implementation of EU policies through criminal law. These include, for instance, Europol and Eurojust, instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant and the European Investigation Order, and the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

As almost 15 years have elapsed since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, it seems appropriate to take a look back at what has already been achieved, where EU criminal law is (or should be) heading and what difficulties Member States face in applying EU criminal law. Although it may seem at first sight that after many years of its evolution, EU criminal law has attained all its objectives and has thus nothing else to achieve, the opposite is true. It is clear in the context of today's events that there are many new challenges facing criminal law, which can only be effectively addressed by further improving and deepening mutual cooperation across the EU.



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The conference, which will take place **on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, will provide a venue for sharing scientific knowledge and foreign experience in the application of the ever-evolving and increasingly important body of criminal law in the European Union.

The international scientific conference will be divided into several thematic blocks, presenting as speakers not only important legal theorists and representatives of European legislation, but above all, foremost Czech and foreign representatives of European practice from among judges, lawyers and prosecutors. The top representatives of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Eurojust or the Council of European Bars (CCBE) have already promised to attend the conference.

In terms of program, the focus will be on the current challenges of European legislation in the field of criminal law, implementation of European Union law into Czech criminal law, the activities of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and European elements in criminal law from the perspective of judicial case law, among others. Attention will also be paid to the work of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the area of criminal law. Representatives from the application field coming from the Member States of the European Union, specifically from France, Germany, Poland, Austria, Spain, Slovakia and Croatia, will speak in the second part of the conference.

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Registration for the conference can be made through the reservation form, no later than the end of August, or until the total capacity of participants is exhausted. A detailed conference program will be sent to the registered participants during the summer months.

The reservation form is available at the following link: <https://pfuk.cz/en-conference2022> (language switching in the reservation form is located in the upper right corner).

The conference languages will be Czech, Slovak and English. The organizers will provide interpreting between Czech and English languages for foreign guests.

No participation fee is charged. The conference organizers will provide and pay for the accommodation of participants who have received an individual invitation. Other participants need to find accommodation and cover the cost themselves.

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at [conference2022@prf.cuni.cz](mailto:conference2022@prf.cuni.cz).

Sincerely,

*The Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic*

*The Faculty of Law of Charles University*

*The Czech Bar Association*

*The Union of Defense Attorneys of the Czech Republic*