

Subject: Expression of interest JPSG Consultative Forum

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the Consultative Forum of Europol. My academic career has been devoted to researching the accountability of EU agencies, more particularly the EU Agencies within the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. My interest in this field began with Frontex and its accountability mechanisms and later expanded to include Europol and its supervisory framework. In the context of my doctoral research, I conducted an in-depth examination of Europol's supervision, blending doctrinal and empirical research methods to provide comprehensive analysis of its accountability structures. This work enabled me to gain a thorough understanding of Europol's operations and its supervisory mechanisms, as well as to familiarise myself with accountability bodies of other EU agencies, such as those operating within Frontex (e.g., Consultative Forum).

Since completing my PhD, I have broadened my expertise to encompass data protection and Artificial Intelligence, which are key areas intersecting with Europol's daily operations and future aspirations. Building on my expertise, I was recently commissioned by the European Parliamentary Research Service to draft a substitute targeted impact assessment on the Proposal for a Regulation on police cooperation to counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking. My experience demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the Agency, which allows me to contribute to the development of evidence-based policies that would enrich the Consultative Forum's work.

Beyond my academic work, I have also actively engaged with civil society organisations, EU institutions and bodies and other stakeholders (such as legal practitioners). I have participated and organised numerous events fostering dialogue among diverse perspectives and have provided active support to civil society organisations. This engagement made me aware of the importance of connections between academic expertise and other perspectives in enhancing Europol's accountability.

I strongly believe that the Consultative Forum's mission would benefit from a balanced composition of stakeholders. My background in EU agency accountability offers a complimentary perspective to that brought by other experts. I am committed to fostering collaboration to ensure that Europol remains effective, while being transparent and accountable.

Thank you for considering my application and I remain at your disposal for any further clarifications,

Kind regards,

Sarah Tas

SARAH TAS

PERSONAL STATEMENT AND CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of European and Comparative Administrative Law at the Department of Public Law at the University of Maastricht. Specialized in EU Administrative law, EU institutional law, data protection, EU migration and criminal law.

EDUCATION

2018-2023: PhD in Law

The European University Institute, Florence

'Overseeing supervision: The supervision of Europol's processing and exchange of personal data'

Supervisor: Professor Deirdre Curtin

1-12 July 2019: Summer School on the Law of the European Union

The European University Institute, Florence

Specialized courses on 'Data at the boundaries of Law'

2018-2019: LL.M. in Comparative, International and European Law

The European University Institute, Florence

2017-2018: LL.M. in European Union Law and Litigation

The University of Luxembourg

Master thesis under the supervision of Professor Herwig Hofmann and Professor Joana Mendes on *'The control of actions taken by agencies through composite procedures: a case-study of operations coordinated by Frontex'*

2016-2017: LL.M. in EU Law

The University of Luxembourg

2015-2016: Erasmus year (LL.B. Law)

Trinity College Dublin

2013-2015: LL.B. Law

The University of Strasbourg and Prépa ENS Cachan D1 focused on Law and Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Edited Books

K Aderemane and S Tas, *Administrative Cooperation in the Schengen Area*, in (Bruylant, forthcoming) edited by M Eliantonio, E Chevalier, and R T Lanceiro

S Tas, *The role of the European Ombudsman in fostering transparency and accountability of EU agencies: zooming in on Europol and Frontex*, in *The role of the European Ombudsman Investigated: From Old Battles to New Challenges* (Hart, 2025) edited by D Curtin, T Ehnert, A Morandini and S Tas

D Curtin, T Ehnert, A Morandini and S Tas, *Introduction: Facing Old Battles and New Crisis* in *The role of the European Ombudsman Investigated: From Old Battles to New Challenges* (Hart, 2025) edited by D Curtin, T Ehnert, A Morandini and S Tas

L Marin and S Tas, *Once upon a time... Digital Rights Ireland. The never-ending saga of data retention in the EU*, in *Research Handbook on EU Criminal Law* (Edward Elgar, 2024) edited by M Bergström, V Mitsilegas and T Quintel

S Tas, *Keeping the Internet Safe During and After the Pandemic: Dealing with the rise of Cybercrime in the EU*, in [Sovereignty, Technology and Governance after COVID-19](#) (Hart, 2022) edited by F Palmiotto and F de Abreu Duarte

Articles

J De Coninck and S Tas, *Case note Kočner v Europol*, in *Common Market Law Revies* (forthcoming)

S Tas, *Europol and the Schengen Information System: A dangerous 'unsupervised' extension of powers*, *European Papers* Special Issue 'The Future of Digitalisation in EU Law Enforcement' edited by Niovi Vavoula (forthcoming)

S Tas, [The Digitalisation of the hotspots in the blind spot of supervisory authorities](#), *European Law Journal* Special Issue 'The contours of a Rule of Law Crisis at the Borders of the European Union' (2024)

S Tas, [The dangerous increasing support of Europol in national criminal investigations: An additional layer of complexity](#), *New Journal of European Criminal Law* Special Issue edited by Masa Galič, Lonneke Stevens and Bert-Jaap Koops (2023)

S Tas, [Fundamental Rights Violations in the Hotspots: Who is Watching Over Them?](#) *European Papers* Special Issue 'The EU's Shifting Borders Reconsidered: Externalization, Constitutionalisation, and Administrative Integration' co-edited by Evangelia (Lilian) Tsourdi, Andrea Ott, and Zvezda Vankova Vol. 7 No 1 (2022).

S Tas, [Defrenne v. SABENA: a landmark case with untapped potential](#), *European Papers* Special Issue edited by Joanne Scott, Marise Cremona and Claire Kilpatrick Vol. 6 No 2 (2021).

S Tas, [Frontex Actions: Out of Control? The Complexity of Composite Decision-Making Procedures](#) (June 22, 2020). TARN Working Paper Series 3/2020, June 2020.

Blogposts

A Giannini and S Tas, [AI Act and the Prohibition of Real-Time Biometric Identification: much ado about nothing?](#) (10 December 2024) in *Verfassungsblog*.

S Tas and A Pirrello, [Advancing Accountability. The Case of Alkhatib and Others v. Greece](#) (16 February 2024) in *Verfassungsblog*.

S Tas, [*Op-Ed: "Frontex above the law – a missed opportunity for a landmark judgment on Frontex's responsibility with regards fundamental rights violations: WS and Others v Frontex \(T-600/21\)"*](#) (20 September 2023) in EULawlive.

S Tas, [*Frontex and Data Protection – Another Rule of Law Challenge in Sight?*](#) (09 September 2022) in Verfassungsblog.

L Marin, M Gkliati and S Tas (eds), [*An 'Impossible Trinity'? Frontex, EU External Borders and the Rule of Law*](#) (05 September 2022) in Verfassungsblog.

S Tas, [*Europol's 'Big Data Challenge' – A Neutralisation of the European Watchdog*](#) (10 February 2022) in Digi-Con.

S Tas, [*The institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greek hotspots: Sufficient to stave off a disaster?*](#) (31 May 2020) in EUlawenforcement.

Book Review

S Tas, [*Book Review of 'Research Handbook on EU Migration and Asylum Law'*](#) edited by Lilian Tsourdi and Philippe De Buycker (2024) *REALaw*

ONGOING PROJECT

- *EPRS Targeted Substitute Impact Assessment on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on enhancing police cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and on enhancing Europol's support to preventing and combating such crimes (forthcoming)*

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

ICON-S Madrid, participation in two panels on 'Composite procedures in the Schengen area' and 'Frontex's role in third countries: towards the establishment of digital borders' (8-11 July 2024), Madrid

Workshop of the EUFutures project, on 'Guardians of Digital Rights: NGOs Litigation Strategies in Data Protection and Platform Regulation in the EU' (2 May 2024), Grenoble

Expert workshop on Europol, on 'A potential for shared liability after *Kočner v Europol*' (29 April 2024) University of Bilbao

Expert workshop on the aftermath of *WS and Others v Frontex* (26 January 2024), VUB Brussels

ICON-S BENELUX Chapter Inaugural Conference (26-27 October 2023), on 'EU agencies' role in undermining EU values', Maastricht

Transnational Administrative Law and Migration Event (23-24 October 2023), on 'Frontex as transnational cooperation driver', Bayonne

Glaw-Net Seminar (1 March 2023), on 'Europol and the Schengen Information System: a dangerous 'unsupervised' extension of powers', Maastricht

Expert Workshop on Bridging the regulatory disconnect between data collection and data analysis in criminal investigation (20 January 2023), Amsterdam

Conference on the Evolving Role of the European Ombudsman (17-18 November 2022), Florence

Ruling European External Borders, Between Rule of Law Crisis and Accountability Gaps, on 'the Digitalisation of the hotspots in the blind spot of supervisory authorities' (13-14 October 2022), Florence

2022 REALaw Forum for Young Scholars – European Administrative Law and the Challenges of Uncertainty, on 'Supervising EU Agencies information management and exchange: a tool against uncertainty?' (5-7 October 2022), Toledo

Digital Law & Policy – Proportionality Principle in IT Regulation, on 'A Typology of Proportionality of the EU Digital Governance: Regulation 2018/1725 meets GDPR' (10-11 September 2022), Warsaw

Roundtable "What Role for the EDPS?" (30 June 2022), online

Building Resistance to Europol's expanded powers (29-30 June 2022), Brussels

ICON Mundo Conference, two presentations on 'The Day after Covid-19) and the 'Control in shared administration' (6-9 July 2021), online

Jean Monnet Workshop NOVA-EU: Migration and EU Borders, on 'Fundamental Rights Violations in the Hotspots' (3-4 December 2020), Maastricht, online

EUI Digital Public Sphere Working Group, "The Day After COVID-19" on 'Keeping the internet safe during the pandemic' (30 November-2 December 2020), Florence

Workshop "The Court of Justice in the Archives Project: First Findings and Next Steps" (20-21 February 2020), Florence

TARN Conference "EU Agencies as 'Inbetweeners'? The Relationship between EU agencies and Member States" (4-5 December 2019), Maastricht

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching in the Public Law Department, University of Maastricht (January 2023-)

Co-coordinator and tutor of various classes of public law.

Invited Lecturer in the LL.M. in Cybercrime, Cybersecurity and International Law, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (June 2024)

Visiting Lecturer on Frontex, Faculty of Political Science University of Maastricht (March 2024)

PBL Training, University of Maastricht (March 2023)

Seminar on "Governing Digital Europe (GDPR and LED)" for the Start-Up OPINIO (October 2022)

Guest Lecture "External relations of EU Agencies" (24 March 2022), Université Libre de Bruxelles

Seminar "Governing Digital Europe: data protection and content moderation" (23-25 November 2021), European University Institute

Seminar "Artificial Intelligence in Practice: Legal and Technical Perspectives" (11-18 October 2021), European University Institute

Lecture on "Artificial intelligence and EU model of governance" (22 March 2021), University of Turin

Teacher Training Certificate (2020), European University Institute

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Editor of the Digi-Con (2021-present) and Head of the Digital State section (2023-present)
Head of Section of the Digital Section, preparing a special call for the principle of good administration in the Digital State (in collaboration with Leiden University)

CPDP Panel Liaison (2022-2023)
Supporting the organization of the CPDP, in liaising four panels.

Senior Editor at the European Journal of Legal Studies (September 2019-present)
Revised several submissions on different topics, ranging from European law to international touching and dealing with artificial intelligence, human rights issues, data protection and the rule of law.

Co-creator and Coordinator of the Digital Public Sphere Working Group (2020-2022) and the Digital Coffees (2021-present)
Coordinator of a Working Group that provides a platform for researchers interested in issues related to the use of data and technologies in the public law sphere. We organized multiple events in a year on artificial intelligence, or data protection and invited relevant experts from the field.

Pre-evaluation of PhD Applications (February 2021)
Conducted pre-evaluation of PhD Applications for the Law Department.

Participation in the Simulation of the EP Canada-Québec-Europe (July 2019)
Participation in the SPECQUE edition in Toulouse and Bordeaux, debating a text on "Safeguarding the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and strengthening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Regional Organizer for the Regional Final of the European Law Moot Court (2019)

Representative in the European Law Moot Court Competition (September 2016-March 2017)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Study visitor at the Université Libre of Brussels (February-March 2022), Brussels
Study visitor at the Center of European Law under the supervision of Professor Brière.

Study visitor at the Fundamental Rights Agency (September 2020-February 2021), Vienna
Supported the Research and Data unit in four different projects: 1) Artificial intelligence and data protection; 2) IT-systems; 3) Training for Europol's staff and 4) Terrorism directive.

Research Assistant, The Court of Justice in the Archives (2018-2020), Academy of European Law, The European University Institute

Research Assistant at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (May 2017-April 2018), Luxembourg

Research Assistant affected to Professor Hofmann (May-September 2017), University of Luxembourg

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Intern at the Court of Justice of the European Union (April-July 2018) and 2nd Assistant (July-August 2018), Luxembourg

Intern at the Commission Consultative des Droits de l'Homme du Grand-Duché (May 2017-July 2017), Luxembourg

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Holder of the scholarship "Joël Berend-Biever", awarded to the best student of the LL.M. in EU Law

Holder of the "The Azizi Prize", awarded to the best student of the LL.M. in EU Law and Litigation

VOLUNTEER WORK

Member of the Leo's Club, Vienne (2020-2021), Member of the Limpertsberg Master Association (2016-2018), Member of 'La Courte Echelle' (2014-2016), Co-creator of "Solidarité Jeunesse Sans Frontières" (2013-2016), Young Ambassador, UNICEF (2013).

LANGUAGES AND OTHER SKILLS

Native French speaker, Native German speaker, Fluent English speaker, Basic Italian and Spanish

Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Zotero and Mindmup