Reconsidering the Single Market in an Uncertain World

5TH EU BUSINESS LAW FORUM



CALL FOR PAPERS

Széchenyi István University | Faculty of Law and Political Sciences
Centre for European Studies
Hybrid conference
11 December 2026 | Győr | Hungary

The conference is carried out within the research stream of "Jean Monnet Module on EU Business Law" (EUBLAW) funded by the Erasmus+ Programme

SZÉCHENYI EGYETEM
UNIVERSITY OF GYŐR

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Centre for European Studies (CES) of Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Széchenyi István University is proud to present a call for papers for the 5th EU Business Law Forum. The Forum is part of the 'Jean Monnet Module on EU Business Law' (EUBLAW) project funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme. The main aim of the 2026 Forum is to explore the implications of the European Commission's 2025 Single Market Strategy for the future of EU business law.

BACKGROUND

The Single Market is not only the historic pillar of European integration, but also the cornerstone of the European Union's economic competitiveness and stability. With a GDP of €18 trillion, it is the world's second-largest economic bloc, accounting for almost a fifth of the global economy. The EU's internal market also comprises 450 million consumers and 30 million businesses. Although the Single Market has contributed significantly to the EU's economic performance in last decades, global geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts and the EU's weak productivity growth of around 1% in recent years have highlighted the need for a strategic rethinking of the Single Market. Building on reform proposals published recently, including the reports by Enrico Letta, Mario Draghi and Sauli Niinistö, the European Commission adopted a communication in May 2025 entitled **'The Single Market: our European home market in an uncertain world'**, which sets out a comprehensive strategy for strengthening the EU's Single Market. The strategy offers a new 'contract' to businesses and citizens: greater freedom of movement within the Single Market, as well as more effective protection against external market distortions. According to the strategy, removing remaining barriers, simplifying procedures and cutting red tape, promoting the digital transition, and ensuring fair competition with products from third countries would enable the internal market to unleash its full potential. The European Commission expects that achieving these strategic objectives will be the key to increasing competitiveness and productivity, which will ultimately contribute to protecting the European social model, supporting the clean transition, and securing the strategic sovereignty and security within the EU.

CONCEPT AND MAIN TOPICS

The main purpose of the Forum is to identify the relevant factors how the EU's Single Market could be enhanced in a world of political and economic turbulences and shed light on this endeavour's **legal, political, economic and social implications.** Even though the focus of the Forum is primarily set on the current state of the legal framework, the Organising Committee welcomes paper proposals from varieties of disciplines including **not only law, but also economics, international relations and political sciences.** The focus of the papers is not restricted to the viewpoint of the Member States. Larger perspectives could also bring important issues into the discussion of the Forum, therefore **applicants from candidate countries are invited to take part in the call.**

The focus areas of the Forum include **but are not limited** to the following main themes:

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SECTION 1 – DISMANTLING THE 'TERRIBLE TEN': ELIMINATING THE REMAINING BARRIERS

The EU's single market still faces significant barriers originating from both the Union and its Member States. The Strategy identified the 'Terrible Ten' factors relating to all fundamental freedoms where action is required. The Commission itself must reconsider several overly complex EU rules, and further harmonisation is necessary, particularly with regard to standard-setting, packaging, labelling, waste and product rules. However, a more supportive attitude from the Member States would contribute above all to a better functioning of the internal market. National legislators must not only alter their practices to avoid adopting disproportionately restrictive and burdensome national rules when implementing EU single market law ('gold-plating'), but also prioritise single market enforcement by designating officials or bodies to facilitate these goals. Domestic rules on business establishment remain complex and costly as well as the long and restrictive recognition of professional qualifications needs to be subject of revision. Although services constitute the main sector of the European economies, the differences in national authorisation and certification requirements make it difficult to carry out economic activities abroad, both for companies and posted workers. Additionally, Territorial Supply Constraints (TSCs) in retail and wholesale also constitute a barrier, which requires action by both the EU and its Member States.

SECTION 2 – DIGITALISATION AND THE DATA-BASED SINGLE MARKET

Digitalisation has already had a strong impact on the internal market reshaping all of the EU's fundamental freedoms. However, it is not only the subject of a wide range of economic activities; it is also a significant factor in facilitating the better functioning of the single market. Digitalisation enables more efficient access to information, strengthening the position of business entities and consumers alike. The EU and its Member States must enhance their digital capacities to make all necessary information available and to establish and/or develop digital procedures that enable stakeholders to fulfil regulatory requirements online. This paradigm shift from a document-based to a data-based single market enables the development of comprehensive online digital tools such as the Business Register Interconnection System (BRIS), the European Unique Identifier (EUID) and the EU Business Wallet. Easy access to information is essential for consumers and business entities alike, and the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) provides one-stop access to information and 'once only' administrative procedures. Considering the cross-border nature of business activities, the Once-Only Technical System (OOTS) facilitates the automated exchange of documents between authorities. Another important development is the Digital Product Passport (DPP), which makes product information and related legislation available, while eInvoicing saves costs by automating invoice processing and exchange.

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SECTION 3 – SIMPLIFYING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF BUSINESSES

The establishment and operation of companies in the single market still remained costly due to the fragmentation of legal rules across Member States. To address this, the strategy introduces a legislative proposal for an optional '28th regime', providing a single, progressive EU corporate legal framework designed around digital-by-default solutions. Under this '28th regime', companies and start-ups will be able to set up digitally across the single market much faster, ideally within 48 hours. Furthermore, the strategy simplifies applicable rules, reduces the 'cost of failure' and addresses specific aspects of insolvency, labour and tax law. It also aims to update regulations on business transfers to facilitate ownership handovers to new entrepreneurs. The strategy is also devoted to ensuring that the operation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is facilitated more effectively. To this end, an SME ID is planned to serve as automatic proof of qualification for cross-border economic activities, which is particularly important in the EU's border regions. Future legislation should consider not only SMEs, but also small mid-caps (SMCs) when the former outgrow their status. Both SMEs and SMCs should make more intensive use of intellectual property rights (IPR) and have better access to sustainable finance opportunities.

SECTION 4 – THE SINGLE MARKET STRATEGY AND GLOBAL TRADE

The strategy no longer viewed the single market as merely an internal trade area, but rather as the primary shield against global geopolitical uncertainties. This approach requires a practical reassessment of the internal market's global context and a review of the EU's external trade law framework. More decisive action is envisaged against unfair global trade practices, in order to protect European companies from distorting state aid, as well as from becoming targets of excess capacity and trade diversion. To this end, the EU should apply trade defence instruments more decisively. These instruments already cover not only traditional measures such as anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures, but also a broader toolbox of defensive and enforcement measures (e.g. the Trade Enforcement Regulation, the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, and the Anti-Coercion Instrument). The strategy also aimed to implement comprehensive customs reform and review customs procedures. Furthermore, it is planned to implement more effective market surveillance of e-commerce imports from third countries, ensuring that only safe products that meet EU standards enter the internal market. However, the single market strategy requires not only the defence of 'Fortress Europe' and the reduction of its external dependencies, but also the strengthening of the bloc's commitment to free trade, both globally and regionally, with countries that share similar values.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Organising Committee invites both junior and senior scholars – including PhD students – to respond for the call for papers of the 5th EU Business Law Forum. Paper proposals should be prepared for anonymous review, must not exceed 300 words and should be submitted in a DOC or PDF document to the Organising Committee at **ces@sze.hu** . The deadline for submissions is **1 December 2026.** In addition to the abstract, a separate document should be enclosed with information on the name, affiliation, contact details and short CV of the author. Proposals will be selected on the basis of the submitted abstracts and successful applicants will be informed by 4 December 2026. No conference fee is applied.

PUBLICATION OF THE PAPERS

The Organising Committee will give the opportunity to all participants to submit their papers to 'EU Business Law Working Papers' series. Moreover, selected papers will be published in an edited and thematic volume in both hard copy and e-book format by the beginning of 2027.

TIMELINE

1 December 2026 – Deadline for submission of abstracts
4 December 2026 – Notifications sent on the accepted papers
11 December 2026 – 5th EU Business Law Forum
28 February 2027 – Submission of the final paper versions for publication

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The convenors of the conference are the members of the Centre for European Studies:

- László Milassin JD, PhD (former head of the Centre and Jean Monnet Chair holder, university professor h.c.)
- Balázs Horváthy JD, PhD (head of the Centre, associate professor)
- László Knapp JD, PhD (head of department, associate professor)



VENUE

The Forum will be organised as a **hybrid conference** accommodating both in-person and online presentations. The event is hosted by the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of Széchenyi István University. The Széchenyi István University is a leading higher educational centre in the North Transdanubian region in Győr, in the middle of a 'triangle' between Bratislava, Budapest and Vienna. Benefiting from its advantageous location, Győr has become a significant industrial, trade and business centre of Hungary. The industrial park of Győr gives place to the plant of Audi Hungaria Motor Kft, which operates the largest car engine factory in the world and also hundreds of suppliers in the field of the automotive industry are established in the agglomeration of the town.

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

All questions and inquiries regarding the 5th EU Business Law Forum should be sent to **ces@sze.hu** , the Committee makes every effort to respond all questions as soon as possible. More information on the Centre, Faculty and Győr is available at **http://ces.sze.hu**; **http://dfk.sze.hu/en_GB/home** and **https://hellogyor.hu/en-US**.

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