This year marks the 30th anniversary of Council Directive 93/13/EEC on unfair terms in consumer contracts (the UCTD). The ‘childhood’ of the Directive went relatively unnoticed, with no judgment from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) until the beginning of the current century. However, the 2007–08 global financial crisis triggered the ‘awaking of Sleeping Beauty’ (following Micklitz and Reich’s analogy). Since then, the CJEU has issued dozens of decisions on the UCTD, almost reaching more than one hundred fifty of them, making it the most visited EU legal instrument in private law.

However, the relevance of the UCTD is not just quantitative. It has served to tackle serious economic grievances and situations of over-indebtedness. It fulfilled the purpose of a social safety net amid the financial crisis. Therefore, it brought EU law to the attention and pressing needs of citizens.

From a more technical perspective, the judgments of the CJEU on the UCTD have advanced EU private law by providing uniform interpretations of the Directive’s key concepts and, it is claimed, by covering other legal mechanisms that were not so evidently within the scope of the UCTD. The decisions of the CJEU have reshaped national laws, including their procedural aspects. Notwithstanding, as final decisions on the application of the CJEU’s judgments fall in the realm of national courts, the harmonising effects of CJEU judgments do not reach all Member States alike – a complexity inherent to pluralistic legal orders, and especially to EU law.

Against this backdrop, the workshop intends to assess the UCTD from the perspective of the case law of the CJEU and the possible future developments at the EU and national levels. Therefrom, the most important topics have been organised into eight panels. Each of them will be introduced by a speaker and followed by a discussant. Generous time has been reserved for an open discussion with the participants of the workshop. The topics covered will consider the fitness of the UCTD for the digital age.

The two-day workshop is the first milestone of a broader comparative law project on the UCTD. It will take place in a face-to-face format at the IE Tower in Madrid, Spain, with the following agenda:
### Monday 5 June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Room 16.01</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Registration 🪤</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 15:00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room 16.01</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Aneta Wiewiorowska</strong>, Polish Academy of Science</td>
<td>Chair: <strong>Fernando Pastor-Merchante</strong>, Vice Dean, IE Law School</td>
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<td><strong>Tatjana Josipovic</strong>, University of Zagreb</td>
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<td><strong>Francisco de Elizalde</strong>, IE Law School</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 16:15</td>
<td><strong>Scope of application &amp; level of harmonization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room 16.01</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speaker: <strong>Tatjana Josipovic</strong>, University of Zagreb</td>
<td>Chair: <strong>Guadalupe Martínez</strong>, IE Law School</td>
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<td>Discussant: <strong>Michel Cannarsa</strong>, Catholic University of Lyon</td>
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<td>16:30 – 17:45</td>
<td><strong>General principles</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room 16.01</strong></td>
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<td>Speaker: <strong>Hans Schulte-Nölke</strong>, Osnabrück University</td>
<td>Chair: <strong>Charlotte Leskinen</strong>, IE Law School</td>
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<td>Discussant: <strong>Francisco de Elizalde</strong>, IE Law School</td>
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<td>18:00 – 19:15</td>
<td><strong>Unfairness assessment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room 16.01</strong></td>
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<td>Speaker: <strong>Marie Jull Sørensen</strong>, Aalborg University</td>
<td>Chair: <strong>Marie-José Garot</strong>, IE Law School</td>
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<td>Discussant: <strong>Aneta Wiewiorowska</strong>, Polish Academy of Science</td>
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Tuesday 6 June

9:30 – 10:45  Transparency

ROOM 16.01
Speaker: Aneta Wiewiorowska, Polish Academy of Science  Chair: Tatjana Josipovic, University of Zagreb
Discussant: Pietro Sirena, Bocconi University

11:00 – 12:15  Consequences of unfairness

ROOM 16.01
Speaker: Francisco de Elizalde, IE Law School  Chair: Bart Wauters, IE Law School
Discussant: Charlotte Pavillon, University of Groningen

12:30 – 13:45  Ex officio assessment

ROOM 16.01
Speaker: Charlotte Pavillon, University of Groningen  Chair: Aneta Wiewiorowska, Polish Academy of Science
Discussant: Marie Jull Sørensen, Aalborg University

14:00 – 15:00  Lunch

15:00 – 16:15  Procedural aspects

ROOM 16.01
Speaker: Pietro Sirena, Bocconi University  Chair: Marco de Benito, IE Law School
Discussant: Tatjana Josipovic, University of Zagreb
16:30 – 17:45  
**Enforcement**

**ROOM 16.01**

Speaker: *Michel Cannarsa*, Catholic University of Lyon  
Chair: *Francisco de Elizalde*, IE Law School

Discussant: *Hans Schulte-Nölke*, Osnabrück University

18:00 – 18:30  
**Concluding remarks**

**ROOM 16.01**

*Aneta Wiewiorowska*, Polish Academy of Science  
*Tatjana Josipovic*, University of Zagreb  
*Francisco de Elizalde*, IE Law School

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**Practical info**

Participants are required to confirm their attendance before 26 May 2023 by completing the [online form here](#).

[Confirm your attendance here]

The conference will take place in Madrid, Spain, at the IE Tower. Directions can be found [here](#).

Located in the heart of the city’s financial district, the 180-meter tower is a bastion of sustainable architecture, providing over 50,000 square meters of dynamic, multi-use space.

Presentations will be organised into chaired panels. The presentation time for each speaker will be 20 minutes, followed by an intervention of the discussant of 5–7 minutes, and an open discussion of a maximum of 50 minutes per panel.

There are no registration fees. Lunch and coffee breaks will be offered by IE University Law School.
Relevant dates

- Registration by: May 26, 2023
- Conference: June 5 and 6, 2023

Contact details

Convenors: Francisco de Elizalde, Tatjana Josipovic, Aneta Wiewiorowska; IE Law School, IE University.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Isabel.Garces@ie.edu

lawtomation.ie.edu

🌐 www.ie.edu/law-school/