

Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

*Learn to Lead and
Represent the EU's New Diplomacy*

Academic Year 2025/2026



ANNUAL REPORT



1 OVERVIEW

The 2025/2026 Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy offered by CIFE and Luiss School of Government was composed of a diverse group of 15 students from 11 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Rome, Berlin and Nice over three terms extending from 13 October 2025 to 10 July 2026. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
13/10/2025 – 31/01/2026	ROME Luiss School of Government
09/02/2026 – 30/03/2026	BERLIN CIFE Berlin
16/03/2026 – 20/03/2026	STUDY TRIP Brussels
07/04/2026 – 10/07/2026	NICE CIFE Nice
10/07/2026	End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony

Under the leitmotiv “Learning and Living Europe”, the one-year Joint Master taught in English welcomed an exclusive group of students striving to expand their professional opportunities. Trade, climate and digitalisation are the strategic fields of global policies where the European Union is displaying strong leadership. Through its Green Deal, the Paris Agreement and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EU’s New Diplomacy brings together civil society, NGOs, corporations, think tanks and foundations to reinforce multilateral and rule-based agreements that set it apart from other global powers.

A new generation of policymakers is therefore needed to implement the transnational agreements for a sustainable common future. The success of the EU’s New Diplomacy will strongly depend on the women and men who lead the strategic trade and climate policy negotiations between Europe and other geopolitical powers.

The Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy (EUDIPLO) offered by CIFE in Berlin and Nice and the School of Government at Luiss Guido Carli in Rome provided the necessary analytical and negotiation skills through evidence-based studies and practical research work in the three major topics of the programme: Sustainability & Climate, Trade & Investment, Digital Cooperation.

It benefited from contributing partners providing expert knowledge:

- Centre for European Policy (CEP) in Berlin
- Council of the European Union in Brussels
- European Commission in Brussels
- European Commission Representation Office in Berlin
- European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels
- European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg and Berlin
- European Parliament in Brussels
- OECD in Paris

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Luiss School of Government
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2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The academic programme is designed in a four-pronged format, as follows:

1. EU Governance in Rome from October 2025 to January 2026 at the School of Government of the University Luiss Guido Carli
2. Climate Diplomacy in Berlin and Nice from February to July 2026 at CIFE
3. Trade Diplomacy in Berlin and Nice from February to July 2026 at CIFE
4. Applied Research and Project Management throughout the whole curriculum

THE MODULES

The curriculum was composed of four compulsory modules:

- A EU Governance (in Rome)
- B Climate Diplomacy (in Berlin and Nice)
- C Trade and Investment Diplomacy (in Berlin and Nice)
- D Applied Research and Project Management

A EU Governance (130 hours)

TRIMESTER 1 ROME: LUISS (October 2025 to January 2026)

Module Director: Giovanni ORSINA Professor of Contemporary History and Head of the Political Science Department at Luiss Guido Carli

The main goal of this module was to provide students with a thorough understanding of the policymaking process at the EU level and a selection of EU policies. At the end of the module, students were able to:

- identify the key players in the policy-making process and their interaction;
- critically analyse EU policy-making from agenda setting to policy implementation;
- understand the latest developments in the governance of the EU (Better Regulation policy);
- understand the Single Market regulatory framework, both in general and in specific policy areas;
- acquire some practical and transferable skills.

The module followed a political science perspective (specifically, comparative politics, public administration, theoretical policy analysis), but also drew on other disciplines where relevant (e.g. economics, legal studies).

Core Courses (100 hours)

Giovanni ORSINA

Maria Elena CAVALLARO Associate Professor of History of International Relations at the Department of Political Science, Luiss Guido Carli University

- European Politics in the 20th Century

Rosamaria BITETTI Lecturer of Social Science and Public Policy, Luiss Guido Carli University

Giacomo LUCHETTA Assistant Professor of Comparative Public Law, Luiss Guido Carli University

- Policies and Policymaking in the European Union

Francesco CHERUBINI Associate Professor of EU Law at the Department of Political Science, Luiss Guido Carli University

- European Institutions

Thomas CHRISTIANSEN Professor in the Department of Political Science, Luiss Guido Carli University

Luigi NARBONE Professor of Practice, Director, Mediterranean Platform, Luiss School of Government

- The Foreign Policy of the European Union

Piero ESPOSITO Adjunct Professor of Economic Policy, Luiss Guido Carli University

- European Macroeconomics

Elective Courses (30 hours)

Giulio VENNARI Civil Servant of the European Union, Administrator at the European Commission

- Learning Policy Advice

B Climate Diplomacy (102 hours)

Module Director: Arnaud LECONTE Director of the Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

Critical EU diplomacy and sustainable development relations were reviewed in the perspective of new international bilateral and multilateral investment and trade agreements with complex long-term issues such as common climate, health and biodiversity policy and actions. Students investigated to what extent the EU has a strong political voice and expresses its economic power through its support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Declaration and its political initiatives such as the Green Deal. Meetings with seasoned experts in EU economic diplomacy were organised.

TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN: CIFE (67 hours)

Vy DANG Researcher, Knowledge Cooperation and Training, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Benedikt ERFORTH Senior Researcher, Inter and Transnational Cooperation, IDOS

Wulf REINERS Senior Researcher, Knowledge Cooperation and Training, IDOS

- Disruptive Digitalisation, Sustainable Development and International Relations

Marc VANHEUKELEN Former EU Ambassador to the WTO, Former EU Climate Ambassador of the European External Action Service

- EU Climate Policy and Diplomacy: European Politics, Political Economy and Outreach



Start of the Academic Year in Rome, with the students of the Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs, and the Joint Master in European Cultural Governance



TRIMESTER 3 NICE: CIFE (35 hours)

Marta BALLESTEROS Associate Senior Manager at Milieu Law and Policy Consulting
Jorge RODRIGUEZ ROMERO Former Head of Unit, Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism, DG Environment, European Commission
■ EU Environmental Law Affecting Climate Change

Marc VANHEUKELEN
■ EU Climate Policy and Diplomacy: European Politics, Political Economy and Outreach

C Trade and Investment Diplomacy (113 hours)

Module Director: Arnaud LECONTE

Digital services and networks, scientific knowledge and intellectual property rights in artificial intelligence and big data are the new frontier of globalisation and represent the most dynamically growing part of global exchanges. Nonetheless, stalled diplomatic negotiations on data, algorithms and AI within the context of the WTO and persistent controversies over services in trade agreements reflect substantial discord on the optimal design of international service investment and trade rules. The outcome of these negotiations is critical. New forms of cooperation agreements increasing knowledge transfer and the digital network may enable countries in their policy space to promote renewable energy, safeguard universal coverage of education and healthcare, and pursue inclusive development goals.

Students attended specialised courses aimed at preparing them for their future professional engagement, on topics such as Trade Diplomacy, the EU Global Gateway and External Investment for SDGs, AI, and Science and Space Diplomacy.

TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN: CIFE (89 hours)

John CLARKE Visiting Lecturer and Fellow at Maastricht University and Former Director for International Affairs at the European Commission
■ Trade Policy and Trade Law in an Uncertain World

Fernando CRIADO ALONSO Senior Administrator at the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
Abigaël VASSELIER Advisor to the Managing Director, ASIAPAC, European External Action Service
Antonio BARROSO VILLAESCUSA Senior Geoeconomics Analyst, Bloomberg
■ The Global Gateway and Geopolitical Competition: EU Connectivity Strategy in the Indo-Pacific and Beyond

André WOLF Head of Technology, Infrastructure and Industrial Development, Centre for European Policy
■ The Green Deal’s Industrial Policy: A Global Perspective

TRIMESTER 3 NICE: CIFE (24 hours)

Fernando CRIADO ALONSO
Javier ARRIBAS QUINTANA Senior Expert, Representation of the European External Action Service in Mexico
Alicia GARCIA HERRERO Adjunct Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
■ The Global Gateway and Geopolitical Competition: EU Connectivity Strategy in the Indo-Pacific and Beyond

Lothar EHRING Senior Expert, Legal Aspects of Trade Policy Unit, DG Trade, European Commission
Josephine NORRIS Member of the Legal Service, WTO and International Trade Policy Team at the European Commission
■ Trade Policy and Trade Law in an Uncertain World

CROSS-SEMESTER: (October 2025 to July 2026)

D Applied Research and Project Management (63 hours)

This module was dedicated to applied research and project management. Professionals and experts discussed a variety of practical case studies of applied research and projects in policy affairs.

Case Studies and Applied Research

TRIMESTER 1 ROME (36 hours)

Adam COURTLEY Doctoral Researcher, Department of Political Science, Luiss Guido Carli University
■ Academic Methodology
Paul CULLEY EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer
■ Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)





TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN (25 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)

Sebastian KURPAS Team Leader for Council Relations, DG Trade and Economic Security, European Commission

- International Trade Negotiation Simulation (Case Study)

Sami ZEIDAN Principal Administrator at the European External Action Service

- Research Methodology

TRIMESTER 3 NICE (6 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)

Workshops

TRIMESTER 3 NICE (40 hours)

Arnaud LECONTE

Emmanuelle MAIRE Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

- Circular Economy

Marc VANHEUKELEN

Joanna SULLIVAN Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Conscience Consulting

- Climate Diplomacy and Climate Negotiation Simulation



Rodolphe MUNOZ Head of Sector for the Implementation of the Space Situational Awareness, DG Defence, Industry and Space, European Commission

Zsolt Gábor PATAKI Senior Policy Analyst in the Policy Foresight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service

Ramona SAMSON Chief Economist, Common Strategy and Foresight Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

- Science and Space Diplomacy

Nadav SHENTAL Deputy Head of Talent Management and Analytics, OECD

Maja FURLAN Talent Management Coordinator, Talent Management and Analytics, OECD

Joshua POLCHAR Strategic Foresight Practitioner, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD

- Talent Management and Informal Governance at the OECD and International Organisations

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- Keynote Speech: *The EU Economic Integration in the New Global Map* by **Arnaud LECONTE**

- Keynote Speech and Discussion: *Skills and Opportunities for the Next Generation of Policymakers at the EIB Group*

by **Aliki PATSAROU** Early Careers - Talent Acquisition, Human Resources Department, European Investment Bank

- Inaugural Lecture: *How to Turn Fear into Hope*

by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium

- Keynote Speech: *Germany in the EU*

by **Matthias WAECHTER** Director General of CIFE

- Discussion and Simulation Game: *The IPCC Scientific Reports Regarding Climate Change* by **CLIMATE FRESK** Non-Profit Organisation



Study Trip to the Council of the EU, Brussels



Study Trip to the EEAS, Brussels

4 STUDY TRIP TO BRUSSELS

The annual study trip to the European and international organisations in Brussels took place from 16 to 20 March 2026 with the following visits:

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- EU-India Relations and the Recent FTA with **Tove PIERROU** Administrator at the Council of the EU and **Fernando CRIADO ALONSO**

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- The Role and Political Priorities of the EEAS, the EU's Diplomatic Service and EU-US Relations with **Ali YAZGILI** Trade and Tech Policy Coordinator, United States and Canada Division
- Climate Diplomacy with **Anthony AGOTHA** Special Envoy for Climate and Environment

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- An International Trade Agreement: Risk or Opportunity? with **Sebastian KURPAS**
- Science Diplomacy Instruments with **Ramona SAMSON**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Visit of the Parliament with **Alexandra Vanessa DANSA** Accredited Parliamentary Assistant to MEP Daniel Buda, **Doortje BATEMA** APA Policy Adviser to MEP Jeroen Lenaers and **Quite OTTENS** Press Officer for the CDA Delegation to the European Parliament

OTHER TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS

- Welcome event with keynote: **EU Leadership and the Current and Future State of Climate Diplomacy** with **Dimitrios ZEYGOLIS** Chief Multilateral Negotiator, Head of the Multilateral Affairs Unit, DG CLIMA
- Inside Brussels: Careers Outside the Bubble in Advocacy and Public Affairs with **Joanna SULLIVAN**
- Brussels Careers and Networking with **CIFE Alumni**
- Defence and Environmental Geopolitics with **Mona KOEHLER-SCHINDLER** Climate Security Adviser at NATO and **Hannes DE REU** Climate Change and ESG Policy Advisor, Belgian Defence

5 OTHER VISITS

- Visit to the French Embassy in Rome on 10 December 2025
- Guided Bus Tour of Berlin on 10 February 2026
- Study Visit and Debates at the European Commission Representation in Berlin on 12 March 2026 with **Guillaume DURAND** Trade Counsellor, Representation of the European Commission in Germany and **Willem NOË** European Commission Economics Expert on EU Integration and Enlargement
- Nice Scavenger Hunt on 7 April 2026



Study Visit to the European Commission Representation in Berlin



Scavenger Hunt, Nice

6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Rodrigo BARAHONA (Honduras)

Land, Environment and Transformation: Community Perceptions of Foreign Development and Investment through the Cerro de Hula Wind Park, Honduras

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

Eva BEAUSOLEIL (France / Canada / Croatia)

From State-Run to Producer Governance: Analysing Regulatory Friction Between Croatia's DRS and the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

Javiera CHINCHILLA SANDOVAL (Chile)

Bridging the Gap? Chile's Lithium Governance and the Sustainability Commitments of the EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement

Thesis Supervisor: Chigozie NWEKE-EZE

Willem CROMMELIN (Netherlands)

Evaluating Key Mechanisms of the EU Waste Framework Directive: A Policy Analysis of the Extended Producer Responsibility and the Waste Hierarchy

Thesis Supervisor: Giacomo LUCHETTA

Claire DEVILLE (Belgium / France)

Assessing the Readiness of Textile-Exporting Countries for the EU Digital Product Passport

Thesis Supervisor: André WOLF

Shasta HECHT (United States)

Transatlantic Influence in the Trump Era: Tracing the Causal Impact of the US Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on EU Climate Policy Development (2017-2026)

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN

Rens HOLTKAMP (Netherlands)

Assessing the Impact of the EU CAP-FTA Framework on Topsoil Organic Carbon Storage in Partner Countries

Thesis Supervisor: Jacques LECACHEUX

Nicole KOMÁRKOVÁ (Czech Republic)

Blue Diplomacy in Practice: Assessing the Effectiveness of the EU Agenda for International Ocean Governance as a Tool of Climate Diplomacy

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

Baran KOSER (Netherlands)

On the Principles of Partnership: A Relational and Critical Analysis of the Pact for the Mediterranean

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

Jennifer OKHIRIA (United States)

As Told by Metacrisis: A Case Study on the Macrocsmic Impact of Geopolitics and Science-Policy Interfacing in and on the Microcosmic Arctic Environment

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

Jacob SOWTER (United Kingdom)

Compliance-Driven Dependence: EU RFNBO Certification in Green Hydrogen Supply Chains

Thesis Supervisor: Jorge RODRIGUEZ ROMERO

Nina TIMMERMANS (Netherlands)

Trade Partner Influence: Georgian and Kenyan Perspectives on the Negotiation and Implementation of the TSD Chapter in Their EU Trade Agreements

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN

Marcos VALVERDE GOMEZ (Spain)

The Arctic Shipping and Black Carbon Policy: Comparison of the Approaches of the EU and Norway

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

Jasper VAN MOOK (Netherlands)

Security or Sustainability? Structural Tensions Between EU Defence, Industrial Expansion and Green Industrial Policy

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

Sarah WELTER (Netherlands)

Simplification or Retrenchment? Omnibus I and the Future of EU Sustainability Reporting

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN



Visit to the French Embassy in Rome



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