

## Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

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

# Academic Year 2024/2025



# ANNUAL REPORT



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# 1 OVERVIEW

The 2024/2025 Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy offered by CIFE and Luiss School of Government was composed of a diverse group of 24 students from 14 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Rome, Berlin and Nice over three terms extending from 14 October 2024 to 11 July 2025. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
14/10/2024 – 31/01/2025	<b>ROME</b> Luiss School of Government
10/02/2025 – 11/04/2025	<b>BERLIN</b> CIFE Berlin
24/03/2025 – 28/03/2025	<b>STUDY TRIP</b> Brussels
22/04/2025 – 11/07/2025	<b>NICE</b> CIFE Nice
11/07/2025	<b>End of the Academic Year &amp; Graduation Ceremony</b>

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
- Ecologic Institute in Berlin
- Embassy of Brazil in Paris
- Embassy of France in Rome
- Europäische Akademie Berlin (EAB)
- European Commission in Brussels
- European Commission Representation Office in Berlin
- European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels and Mexico
- European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg and Berlin
- European Parliament in Brussels
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- OECD in Paris



## 2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

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

1. EU Governance in Rome from October 2024 to January 2025 at the School of Government of the University Luiss Guido Carli
2. Climate Diplomacy in Berlin and Nice from February to July 2025 at CIFE
3. Trade Diplomacy in Berlin and Nice from February to July 2025 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 EU Climate Diplomacy (in Berlin and Nice)
- C EU Trade and Investment Diplomacy (in Berlin and Nice)
- D Applied Research and Project Management

#### A EU Governance (130 hours)

**TRIMESTER 1 ROME: LUISS** (October 2024 to January 2025)

**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:

- know 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**

- European Politics in the 20th Century

**Paolo CANOFARI** *Researcher, Luiss School of European Political Economy*

- European Macroeconomics

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

- European Institutions



**Thomas CHRISTIANSEN** *Professor in the Political Science Department*

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

- The Foreign Policy of the European Union

**Giacomo LUCHETTA** *Assistant Professor of Comparative Public Law*

- Policies and Policymaking in the European Union

### **Elective courses** (30 hours)

**Giulio VENNERI** *Civil Servant of the European Union, Administrator at the European Commission*

- Learning Policy Advice

## **B EU Climate Diplomacy** (70 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** (42 hours)

**Marta BALLESTEROS** *Associate Senior Manager at Milieu Law and Policy Consulting*

- EU Environmental Regulations Affecting Climate Change

**Jacques LE CACHEUX** *Professor Emeritus of Economics, Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour*

- The European Union in the World Economy: Trade, Food and the Green Deal

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

- Climate and Trade Diplomacy

### TRIMESTER 3: NICE: CIFE (28 hours)

Jacques LE CACHEUX

- The European Union in the World Economy: Trade, Food and the Green Deal

Marc VANHEUKELEN

- Climate and Trade Diplomacy

## C EU Trade and Investment Diplomacy (73 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 Cultural Diplomacy.

### TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN: CIFE (45 hours)

**Fernando CRIADO ALONSO** *Senior Administrator at the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU*

- European Global Cooperation Strategy: The EU Connectivity Approach

**Lothar EHRING** *Senior Expert, Legal Aspects of Trade Policy Unit, Directorate-General (DG) for Trade at the European Commission*

**John CLARKE** *Visiting Lecturer and Fellow at Maastricht University and Former Director for International Affairs at the European Commission*

- Law and Trade Policies in an Uncertain World

**Ramona SAMSON** *Team Leader, R&I Strategy of the Chief Economist Unit, DG Research and Innovation at the European Commission*

- Science and Cultural Diplomacy



With the students of the Joint Master programmes



### **TRIMESTER 3: NICE: CIFE** (28 hours)

**Fernando CRIADO ALONSO**

- European Global Cooperation Strategy: The EU Connectivity Approach

**Ramona SAMSON**

- Science and Cultural Diplomacy

### **CROSS-SEMESTER:** (October 2024 to July 2025)

## **D Applied Research and Project Management** (66 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)

**Paul CULLEY** *EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer*

- Laboratory for Practical EU Policymaking Skills

**Omar SHEIRA** *Training Manager at the Mediterranean Platform, Luiss School of Government*

- Academic Methodology

#### **TRIMESTER 2: BERLIN** (24 hours)

**Paul CULLEY**

- Laboratory for Practical EU Policymaking Skills

**André WOLF** *Economist and Head of the Technology, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Division at the Centre for European Policy in Berlin*

- Case Study: The Green Deal's Industrial Policy in the Context of International Competition

#### **TRIMESTER 3: NICE** (6 hours)

**Paul CULLEY**

- Laboratory for Practical EU Policymaking Skills





## Workshops

### TRIMESTER 2: BERLIN (25 hours)

#### Ecologic Institute Berlin

- Biodiversity: Mare/Ocean in the “Human Library”

#### Europäische Akademie Berlin

- EU Feminist Development and Foreign Policy

#### Willem NOË *Former European Commission Official on EU Integration and Enlargement*

- EU Integration, Enlargement and European Values: EU Past and Future

### TRIMESTER 3: NICE (29 hours)

#### Luiz DE ANDRADE FILHO *Chief of Climate and Environment Service at the Embassy of Brazil in Paris*

#### Joanna SULLIVAN *Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Conscience Consulting*

#### Jourdain VAILLANT *Diplomat, Policy Advisor at the Embassy of France in Rome*

- Climate Diplomacy

#### Nina FRAUENFELD *Executive Director, SuccessAcross*

- Career Workshop
- Individual Career Coaching

#### Emmanuelle MAIRE *Head of Unit, DG for Environment at the European Commission*

#### William NEALE *Advisor for Circular Economy, DG for Environment at the European Commission*

#### Julius WIEBE *Facilitator of the Climate Fresk Deutschland*

- Circular Economy







With the students of the Joint Master programmes

## 3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

### Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- Keynote Speech: **European Global Cooperation Strategy**  
by **Javier ARRIBAS QUINTANA** Senior Expert, Representation of the European External Action Service in Mexico
- Keynote Speech: **EU Trade Policy – The Case of Korea**  
by **Guillaume DURAND** Trade Counsellor, Representation of the European Commission in Germany
- Keynote Speech: **EIB in Germany between War and Peace**  
by **Heike FREIMUTH** Head of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group Office in Germany
- Keynote Speech: **The Belt and Road Initiative: From an Economic to a Political Rationale**  
by **Alicia GARCIA HERRERO** Adjunct Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Keynote Speech: **AI and the Future of the Labour Market**  
by **Anselm KÜSTER** Head of Digitalisation and New Technology Centre for European Policy
- Keynote Speech: **The EU Economic Integration in the New Global Map**  
by **Arnaud LECONTE**
- Discussion with **OECD Talent Management**  
with **Nadav SHENTAL** Deputy Head of Talent Management and Analytics at the OECD and **Martin WASSERMANN** Talent Management Analyst at the OECD
- Inaugural Lecture: **Europe in a Dangerous World**  
by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium
- Keynote Lecture: **Network Intelligence**  
by **Daria TATAJ** Founder & CEO of Tataj Innovation
- Keynote Speech: **Germany in the EU Before the Election on 23 February 2025**  
by **Matthias WAECHTER** Director General of CIFE



## 4 STUDY TRIP TO BRUSSELS

The annual study trip to the European and international organisations in Brussels took place from 24 to 28 March 2025 with the following visits:

### COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- The European Council and the Council of the EU: An Overview with a Focus on Climate Policy  
with **Radovan SCHIDA** *Political Administrator, Environment and Climate Change, Environment, Education, Youth, Culture, Audiovisual and Sport, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union*

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Trade and Investment Diplomacy  
with **Lothar EHRING**
- Science Diplomacy Instruments  
with **Ramona SAMSON**

### EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- Climate Diplomacy  
with **Anthony AGOTHA** *Special Envoy for Climate and Environment*
- The Role and Political Priorities of the EEAS, the EU's Diplomatic Service  
with **Tihamer CZIKA** *Policy Officer, Human Rights Division*

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Visit of the Parliament  
with **Michael SCANLON** *Visit Administrator, DG Communication*  
and **Vittoria VENEZIA** *Advisor, European People's Party Group Presidency*

### OTHER TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS

- Key Opportunities and Challenges for EU Trade Policy  
with **Sebastian KURPAS** *Team Lead, DG Trade at the European Commission*
- Career Development at the European Commission  
with **Jorge Rodríguez ROMERO** *Former Head of Unit, DG Environment at the European Commission*



# 5 OTHER VISITS

- Guided Bus Tour of Berlin on 10 February 2025
- Nice Scavenger Hunt on 25 April 2025



With the students of the Joint Master programmes



With the students of the Joint Master in European Cultural Governance



# 6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

**Carolina AGOSTINI** (Italy)

*Marine Renewable Energy and Deep-Sea Mining: Environmental Trade-Offs and Their Role in the European Clean Energy Transition*

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

**Marion BALAC** (France)

*Green Finance and Trade Openness: Scaling Sustainable Investments in the European Union*

Thesis Supervisor: André WOLF

**Markus BARNEVIK OLSSON** (Sweden)

*Bridging Europe: A Comparative Analysis of the Construction of the Fehmarnbelt and the Channel Tunnel*

Thesis Supervisor: Chigozie NWEKE-EZE

**Helen BEVERNAGE** (Belgium)

*Hydrogen Horizons: Evaluating MENA-EU Hydrogen Trade Readiness through Techno-Economic and Governance Indicators*

Thesis Supervisor: André WOLF

**Eloise COWHEY** (Ireland)

*Contested Worldviews in a Post-Western Order: How the Philosophical Roots of Chinese and EU Foreign Policy Shape the BRI and Global Gateway Strategy*

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

**Juan CUQUERELLA** (Spain)

*Structural Dependency and Land Consolidation in EU AgriFood Production: The EU-Mercosur Agreement Case on the Future of Mid-Sized Cereal Farms*

Thesis Supervisor: Giacomo LUCHETTA

**Alexander DE SCHEEMAKER** (Netherlands)

*Lithium Lifelines: A Comparative Policy Analysis of the EU and China's Critical Mineral Strategies*

Thesis Supervisor: Fernando CRIADO ALONSO

**Giuseppe ELMO** (Italy)

*Trade Agreements and Climate Change: Evaluating the Environmental Effectiveness of Regional Versus International Frameworks*

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

**Andreea ENI** (Romania)

*From Environmental Rights to EU Member State Obligations: Enforcement and Accountability in EU Law*

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

**Mattia FRASCA** (Italy)

*The Dark Side of the Green Transition: How Sámi Legal Mobilisation Challenges the Prioritisation of Energy-Driven Projects Over Indigenous Rights in Norway and Finland*

Thesis Supervisor: Sami ZEIDAN

**Federico GISLON** (Italy)

*The Green Diplomacy of the EU: The Impact of the European Green Deal on External Relations. The Cases of the US and China*

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN

**Tim HESSLER** (Germany)

*Closing the Loop without Closing the Door: EU Trade Policies and Global Circular Equity in Developing Countries*

Thesis Supervisor: Ramona SAMSON

**Besart KASTRATI** (Kosovo)

*Sustainability Provisions in the European Union's Free Trade Agreements*

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN

**Stephanie KRÜG** (Sweden)

*Red Light on Green Tech? An Early Assessment of Sweden's Approach to Sino-European De-Risking*

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

**Zofia LANQUETOT** (France)

*During the European Parliamentary Elections of 2024, What Were the Foreign Policy Narratives Used by the Polish, German and French Far-Right Parties? A Comparative Analysis*

Thesis Supervisor: Ebru TURHAN

**Lea LIMBACH** (Germany)

*From Autonomy to Alignment: An Explorative Approach to Cooperation on Unilateral Environmental Policy Between the EU and FTA Partners*

Thesis Supervisor: Marcus GUSTAFSSON

**Laura LLUSSA I ROSELL** (Spain)

*On Energy and Security: Analysis of the Effectiveness of EU Policies in Reducing Energy Vulnerability in the Aftermath of the 2022 Energy Crisis*

Thesis Supervisor: Christian MANAHL

**Carlotta MARTINETTI** (Italy)

*Brothers of Italy and Vox: Two Faces of Right-Wing Radicalism in Contemporary Union?*

Thesis Supervisor: Maria Elena CAVALLARO

**Kira MCDONNELL** (United Kingdom)

*For the People and the Planet: How Social and Environmental Sustainability Impact Post-Conflict Countries with Case Studies from Cambodia and Colombia*

Thesis Supervisor: Igor TKALEC

**Carolina PALOSCHI** (Italy)

*The Role of the EU's Global Gateway in Renewable Energy Infrastructure in Mercosur Countries: Opportunities, Challenges and Strategies*

Thesis Supervisor: Fernando CRIADO ALONSO

**Ana PETRIČIĆ TINTO** (United States)

*Aligning the EU Green Deal and Global Gateway: Green Hydrogen's Role in Advancing SDG7 in Denmark and Namibia*

Thesis Supervisor: Fernando CRIADO ALONSO

**Andrea RODRIGUES** (New Zealand)

*Hungry for a Change: An Analysis of European Commission Impact Assessment and Evaluations Concerning Sustainable Food Systems*

Thesis Supervisor: Giacomo LUCHETTA

**Alice SOLARI** (Italy)

*Media Independence and Freedom: A Comparative Analysis of Public Service Broadcasting in Europe*

Thesis Supervisor: Ylenia CITINO

**Maria TSANOVA** (Bulgaria)

*Impact of the Margonin Wind Farm Energy Project on the Socioeconomic Development of Poland*

Thesis Supervisor: Chigozie NWEKE-EZE



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