

Freiburg Symposium:

The Criminal Law Protection of Democracy and the Constitution in the Era of Digitalisation

University of Freiburg, 19 – 20 June 2026

Friday, 19 June

Until 14:00 Arrival of Participants

14:00 – 14:10 Welcome Words: *Maria Kaiafa-Gbandi*

Panel 1: Presentation of the Research Project “European Criminal Policy in Times of Digitalisation”

14:10 – 14:30 Methodology and Essential Results of the Comparative Legal Analysis – *Sebastian Ahlfs* and *Ronja Thümmler*

14:30 – 15:15 The Criminal Law Protection of Democracy and the Constitution: Guidelines for EU Harmonisation – *Frank Zimmermann*

15:15 – 15:30 Commentary – *Manuel Cancio Meliá*

15:30 – 15:45 Commentary – *Anne Schneider*

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:00 General Discussion – Chair: *Jannemieke Ouwerkerk*

Frank Zimmermann, Anne Schneider, Manuel Cancio Meliá, Maria Jose Pifarré

Panel 2: Can Criminalisation Help to Protect Democracy? – Chair: *Slavomir Steinborn*

17:00 – 17:20 Criminal Law, Democracy and Politics. Criminalisation as Sinon’s Gift? – *Nicola Recchia*

17:20 – 17:40 Criminalisation as a Response to Political Deepfakes? A Comparative Analysis and the Search for Alternative Approaches – *Federica Fedorczyk*

17:40 – 18:00 Discussion

Saturday, 20 June

Panel 3: Insights from Selected Member States – Chair: *Adán Nieto Martín*

09:00 – 09:20 Politicians & Deepfakes: Balancing and Protecting Democratic Values from a Belgian Criminal Law Perspective – *Wendy De Bondt*

09:20 – 09:40 Electoral Crimes under German Criminal Law and the Digital Challenge – *Jara Streuer*

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09:40 – 10:00 Election Manipulation in the Digital Age: Lessons from Denmark on Freedom of Information and Electoral Integrity – *Søren Arvig Verdoner*

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion

Coffee Break

Panel 4: Looking Beyond (National) Criminal Law: European and Procedural Aspects – Chair: *Ingeborg Zerbos*

11:00 – 11:20 The Role of European Criminal Law in Protecting Democracy – *Valsamis Mitsilegas*

11:20 – 11:40 Criminal Prosecution and Deepfakes – *Johanna Hahn*

11:40 – 12:00 Discussion

12:00 Farewell Words: *Helmut Satzger*

Venue: Wilhelmstraße 26, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau
Room: R 01 014 (first floor)
The conference will take place exclusively in presence.

Contact: eu.criminal.law@jura.uni-freiburg.de

Further information:

<https://uni-freiburg.de/jura-internationales-strafrecht/veranstaltungen/>

Registration is mandatory (see next page).

The conference is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

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Conference registration:

The conference is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. To register, please complete the following form and send it to eu.criminal.law@jura.uni-freiburg.de:

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Email-address: _____

I will attend the conference:

on all days on 19 June on 20 June

Place, date

Signature

Data protection notice: By registering, you consent to the storage of your personal data to the following extent: Your name and email address will be stored by the conference organisation team headed by Prof. Dr. Frank Zimmermann (Albert Ludwig University Freiburg, Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Department 3, 79085 Freiburg i.Br.) and used to contact you for questions regarding your registration.