



Professor Koen Lenaerts

President of the Court of Justice of the European Union

Upholding European Values: Democracy, Solidarity, and the Rule of Law

Abstract

Values sit at the pinnacle of the EU legal order, cascading like a waterfall through every norm adopted by the EU. Both EU and national courts must uphold those values and the legal principles and norms that implement them. European values are interdependent, meaning that respect for one value presupposes respect for the others.

In the light of recent developments in the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, President Lenaerts will explore the relationship between three of the founding values of the EU: democracy, the rule of law and solidarity. He will support the contention that those values seamlessly blend in defining not only the very identity of the EU but also the nature of EU citizenship.