

UKRAINE, SANCTIONS & SECURITY IN EUROPE FOR 2025



LORD BRENNAN KC has been King's Counsel since 1985 and is a senior associate member of Matrix. His areas of expertise include commercial law, public and private international law and international arbitration. Lord Brennan KC, as an appointed life peer, is active in politics, as well as dedicating time to his incredibly varied legal practice. His most notable case during 2009 was the landmark civil Omagh bombing case. The outcome, in favour of his clients – relatives of those killed in the Omagh bombing – has become the first civil case of its kind in Europe in which the victims of terrorism were able to sue those responsible. In 2010, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chambers & Partners Bar Awards.



OLENA SUKMANOVA heads Sayenko Kharenko's litigation practice. Boasting over 20 years of professional experience, she specializes in the comprehensive resolution of complex disputes and conflicts. As a First Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Olena gained invaluable experience in approximation process to the EU acquis; capacity building in EU integration process of Ministry's key units; negotiation on EU macro-financial assistance; development of the non-paper on Justice, freedom and security sphere (as a new proposal after implementing Visa liberalisation plan for Ukraine). In addition, Olena is a Member of Safe Ukraine 2030 Supervisory Board, who is responsible for development of legal framework for security and justice, including promotion of the implementation of EU standards and rules of international law into domestic legislation on security and justice. She has been named among notable practitioners in Litigation by Ukrainian Law Firms 2020 and recommended among leading lawyers in Litigation by Best Lawyers in Ukraine 2022, 2024.



PROFESSOR TAKIS TRIDIMAS is the Director of the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) and Professor at the University of Luxembourg. He is a barrister at Matrix chambers and also qualified as a Greek advocate and has litigated many cases before the European Court of Justice. Before joining the LCEL in October 2024, he was Professor of European Law at King's College London (2013 – 2024). He is distinguished visiting professor at Florida State University. He is one of the most frequently cited authors by Advocates General of the European Court of Justice and, on matters of EU law, by English courts. In 2003, he was senior legal adviser to the EU Presidency and Chairman of the Committee set up by the EU Council of Ministers to draft the Treaty of Accession by which ten new States joined the EU.



MARIA KOSTYTYSKA is Head of International Arbitration at the Paris office of Winston & Strawn LLP. Admitted to the bars of England and Wales (Barrister), Paris (Avocate à la Cour), New York and the District of Columbia, she practices law in five languages before international arbitral tribunals and national courts. Her cross-jurisdictional practice encompasses annulment, recognition and enforcement of international arbitral awards and foreign judgments, including against sovereigns and their assets, both on the defensive and on the offensive. Her decade-long representation of Ukraine has included acting as counsel in proceedings before the ECJ regarding the imposition of economic sanctions on a former head of state. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion in 2022, she has lead a pro bono program to study legal mechanisms for recovery of losses caused by the war, in collaboration with Ukrainian & international professional associations.



PROFESSOR PAUL JAMES CARDWELL is Professor of Law and Vice Dean (Education) at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. He has published widely on his research area of the External Relations of the EU and has provided evidence to the Parliaments of the UK and Canada. He is the editor of the leading interdisciplinary journal, JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies, and recently launched a postgraduate module on The Law and Practice of Economic Sanctions in collaboration with Baker & McKenzie.