

## **Dr Viktor Szép**

Assistant Professor  
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### **SHORT BIO**

Dr Viktor Szép is Assistant Professor at the University of Groningen (RUG). His research focuses on the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and sanctions. Dr Szép is also interested in the nexus between EU foreign policy and trade. Prior to his appointment at RUG, he studied law (PhD) and international relations (MA) and worked for various academic institutions in Hungary.

### **ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### **Department of European and Economic Law University of Groningen, the Netherlands (2021 – )**

Assistant Professor: 1 February 2023 – present

Postdoctoral Researcher: 1 August 2021 – 31 January 2023 (H2020 ENGAGE)

#### **Department of EU Law and International Law, Institute for Legal Studies Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary (2015-2021)**

Research Fellow: June 2021 – July 2021

Junior Research Fellow: July 2015 – May 2021

#### **Department of International Relations and European Studies Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary (2015-2021)**

Assistant Professor: May 2021 – July 2021

Assistant Lecturer: September 2018 – April 2021

External Lecturer: February 2015 – July 2018

### **STUDIES**

#### **PhD in Law (2021)**

University of Debrecen

PhD thesis: The EU's 2014 sanctions regime against Russia

#### **PhD summer school on EU external relations (2017)**

College of Europe, Natolin campus (10 ECTS)

#### **MA in International Relations (EU studies track) (2015)**

Eötvös Loránd University

#### **BA in Social Studies (2013)**

Eötvös Loránd University

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- **W. Geelgoed - V. Szép - R. A. Wessel** (2024): Restrictive Measures. In Caeiro, P., Gless, S., Mitsilegas, V., João Costa, M., De Snaijer, J. & Theodorakakou, G. (eds.): Elgar Encyclopedia of Crime and Criminal Justice. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- **L. Lonardo – V. Szép** (2023): The Use of Sanctions to Achieve EU Strategic Autonomy: Restrictive Measures, the Blocking Statute and the Anti-Coercion Instrument. *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 28(4): 363-378.
- **P. Van Elsuwege - V. Szép** (2023): The Revival of Transatlantic Partnership? EU-US Coordination in Sanctions Policy, In. E. Fahey (Ed.): *Routledge International Handbook on Transatlantic Relations*. Routledge. 81-95.
- **V. Szép – R. A. Wessel** (2023): Balancing restrictive measures and media freedom: RT France v. Council. *Common Market Law Review*, 60(5): 1383-1396.
- **V. Szép – K. Chawla** (2023): The EU's 2022 Sanctions against Russia: External Shocks Altering EU Restrictive Measure Practices? *Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law*. 11(1): 196-211.
- **V. Szép – R. A. Wessel** (2023): Assessing Current CFSP Structures and Processes and Formulating Recommendations. *ENGAGE Working Paper*.
- **V. Szép** (2023): Making EU Foreign Policy More Effective: Qualified Majority Voting on the Horizon? *Carnegie Europe, Strategic Europe blog*
- **V. Szép et al.** (2023): Case studies of the EU's CFSP activity. *ENGAGE Working Paper No. 20*.
- **V. Szép** (2022): Transnational Parliamentary Activities in EU Foreign Policy: the Role of Parliamentarians in the Coming About of the EU's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*. 60(6): 1741-1757.
- **R. A. Wessel - V. Szép** (2022): Towards Intelligence Cooperation in the EU? *European Foreign Affairs Review*. 27(3): 307-312.
- **V. Szép** (2022): Unmatched Levels of Sanctions Coordination. The Strength of Transatlantic Cooperation in the Russia's War on Ukraine. *Verfassungsblog*. 2022/3/23
- **V. Szép - E. Sabatino - R. A. Wessel** (2022): Developing Assessment Criteria for Security and Intelligence Cooperation in the EU. *ENGAGE Working Paper Series*.
- **V. Szép - R. A. Wessel** (2022): The Current Legal Basis and Governance Structures of the EU's External Action. *ENGAGE Working Paper Series*.
- **V. Szép - R. A. Wessel** (2021): Mapping the Current Legal Basis and Governance Structures of the EU's CFSP. *ENGAGE Working Paper Series*.
- **V. Szép - R. A. Wessel - E. Sabatino - C. Gebhard - E. Simon** (2021): The Current Legal Basis and Governance Structures of the EU's Defence Activities. *ENGAGE Working Paper Series*.
- **V. Szép** (2021): Coordinated economic sanctions against Belarus? EU foreign policy in action against the Lukashenka regime. *DCU Brexit Institute*.
- **V. Szép** (2021): The framework for collective decision-making in EU foreign policy: the case of the sanctions imposed against Russia. *Budapest, TK* (183 pages).
- **V. Szép - P. Van Elsuwege** (2020): EU sanctions policy and the alignment of third countries: relevant experiences for the UK? In. J. S. Vara, R. A. Wessel & P. R. Polak (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of the International Dimension of Brexit*. Abingdon, Routledge. 226-240.
- **V. Szép** (2020): New intergovernmentalism meets EU sanctions policy: the European Council orchestrates the restrictive measures imposed against Russia. *Journal of European Integration*. 42(6), 855-871.
- **V. Szép** (2019): Foreign Policy Without Unilateral Alternatives? EU Member State Interests and the Imposition of Economic Sanctions. In. M. Varju (Ed.): *Between compliance and particularism: Member State interests and European Union law*. Cham, Springer. 321-338.

To see the full list of my publication, check [my official RUG profile](#).

### THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

- Incentive fund for an interdisciplinary project, University of Groningen: EU Sanctions Network, 2022

### CONSULTANCY AND CONTRACT RESEARCH

- **R. A. Wessel – V. Szép** (2022): The implementation of Article 31 of the Treaty on European Union and the use of qualified majority voting. Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament.
  - In its [report](#) of 1 June 2023 on the implementation of the passerelle clauses, the European Parliament cited our report as evidence.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Experts Workshop on EU Decision-Making organised by Egmont – The Royal Institute for International Relations in the presence of representatives of the Council Secretariat General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 16 February 2024.
- Practitioner-oriented presentation on EU sanctions at the [European Law Academy](#), Trier, Germany, 28 April 2023
- Public hearing at the [European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs](#) (AFCO) on the potential improvement of EU foreign policy and the wider use of qualified majority voting, 28 February 2023 (with Prof. Ramses A. Wessel)

### MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Quoted in Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest and most influential newspaper, on the use of qualified majority voting in EU foreign policy, June 2023
- Interview by Euronews on extra-territorial sanctions, 11 May 2023
- Quoted by *VálaszOnline* on the use of qualified majority voting in EU foreign policy, 1 March 2023
- Interview by *Rezervátum* YouTube channel on the use of qualified majority voting in EU foreign policy, 5 February 2023
- Quoted by *napi.hu* on EU sanctions against Russia, 12 October 2022
- Quoted by *G7.hu* on EU sanctions against Russia, 14 May 2022
- Interview on the EU's sanctions against Russia at Dutch public television ('Nieuwsuur'), 4 March 2022
- Interview on the enforcement of EU values (Article 7 TEU) at Tilos Radio, 25 November 2019

### MY ON-GOING AND PAST COURSES

EU law, EU policy areas, EU institutions and decision-making procedures, EU integration history, EU external relations, the law & politics of Brexit, European politics, EU and Hungary, academic writing

## REVIEWER

Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS); Cambridge Yearbook of European Legal Studies; European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research; European Foreign Affairs Review; Central European Journal of International and Security Studies; Europe and the World: A law review; Intersections; Revista CIDOB d'Aders Internacionals

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- The Politics of European Law and the Law of European Politics, Summer School at the University of Groningen, 3 July 2023
- The European Union in a Globalising World: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, 1-2 June 2023, University of Groningen, member of the organising team & chair of the “Europeanisation and EU enlargement” panel
- Strategising EU decision-making in the face of new challenges: mainstreaming qualified majority voting in the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union in International Affairs (EUIA) Conference, Brussels, 3-5 May 2023
- Discussant at the 8th Jean Monnet Doctoral Workshop: EU Diplomacy: Confronting Legal and Political Insights, Groningen, the Netherlands, 21 April 2023
- Towards a more effective EU? The use of qualified majority voting in the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy, ELTE University, Budapest, 30 March 2023
- Case studies of the EU’s CFSP activity with Ramses A. Wessel, H2020 ENGAGE consortium meeting, 19 December 2022
- Organiser and discussant in the “Sanctions Network”, 24-26 November 2022, Groningen, the Netherlands
- Q&A: The assessment of EU sanctions against Russia, H2020 ENGAGE short film, 13 July 2022
- EU sanctions: an emerging tool in EU foreign policy?, summer school on "The Politics of European Law and the Law of European Politics The Many Facets of the EU Strategic Autonomy", 27 June 2022
- Case studies of the EU’s CFSP activity with Ramses A. Wessel, H2020 ENGAGE consortium meeting, 13-14 June 2022
- Transatlantic sanctions coordination with Peter Van Elsuwege, EUSA 17th Biennial Conference, 19-21 May 2022, Miami Florida
- Legal and strategic autonomy in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, EUSA 17th Biennial Conference, 19-21 May 2022, Miami Florida
- Expert discussion on the costs and benefits of sanctions on Russia, Illicit Trade Group, University of Groningen, 9 May 2022
- Sanctions and War: The EU’s Restrictive Measures and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, ENGAGE (H2020) roundtable discussion, 3 May 2022
- Lunch webinar Illicit Trade: International sanctions against Russia, Sustainable Society & Illicit Trade Group, University of Groningen, 7 April 2022
- International sanctions against Russia, The City Law School, City, University of London, 6 April 2022
- International sanctions against Russia, Institute for Legal Studies, Centre for Social Sciences (Budapest), 31 March 2022

- Discussant, ESIL Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’, University of Glasgow, School of Law, 30 March 2022
- Roundtable Discussion on Ukraine and International Law, University of Groningen, 10 March 2022
- International sanctions against Russia, Eötvös Loránd University, 7 March 2022
- "The Future of EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy: Assessing Legal Options for Improvement". Panel: Strategizing European Security: Needs, Deeds and Acceptability. UACES 51st Annual Conference. 8 September 2021.
- "Transatlantic cooperation in sanctions policy" with Peter Van Elsuwege. The Transatlantic Space Between Shifting Administrations. Jean Monnet Chair in Law & Transatlantic Relations & Institute for the Study of European Law, City Law School. 2 July 2021.
- Book launch, European Papers workshop: The Routledge Handbook on the International Dimension of Brexit, 8 March 2021 (Zoom meeting)
- “EU sanctions policy and the alignment of third countries – Relevant experiences for the UK?” with Peter Van Elsuwege, EU External Relations after Brexit, Implications under EU and International Law, Jean Monnet Chair of the University of Salamanca & CLEER, 7-8 March 2019.
- Foreign Policy Without Unilateral Alternatives? EU Member State Interests and the Imposition of Economic Sanctions, The closing conference of the MTA TK Lendület-HPOPs Research Group: Local interests and common obligations in the EU, 1 June 2018.
- “Achieving Unity with Diversity: the EU's Sanctions Imposed against Russia”, ECPR SGEU conference, Sciences Po Paris, 13-15 June 2018.
- "The United Kingdom’s Sanctions Policy after Brexit", Institute for Legal Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 3 May 2018 (with Balázs Horváthy)
- “Taking back control in sanctions policy? The United Kingdom’s leeway in the application of restrictive measures” (with Balázs Horváthy) UACES 47th Annual Conference, Jagiellonian University, 4-6 September 2017.
- "The framework for collective decision-making in EU foreign policy: the case of sanctions imposed against Eastern European countries" 5th ENP PhD Summer School at the College of Europe, Warsaw, 21-30 June 2017
- "Views duly taken into consideration? The different approaches of the EP and the Council in the field of sanctions applied against third states" Third ANTERO Network Meeting Workshop on Problem-based Learning (PBL) in EU Foreign Policy & Research Panels on Coherence and Effectiveness in EU Foreign Policy, Dublin, 31 May – 2 June 2017

## **AWARDS**

- Annual Publication Award – the “Best Publication of the Year” in the Institute for Legal Studies, awarded by the Centre of Social Sciences, Budapest, 2020

## **PHD SUPERVISION**

- Anna Sebestyén, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), 2022-2026, The suspension of EU aids and sanctions