

to a colloquium with

Dr. Ralf Rogowski, LL.M.
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on

**“Law and Policy of Transitional Labour Markets
in the European Union: Remarks on the European Social Model”**

Wednesday, April 5th, 11.00 a.m., Room B 002/ 003

The concept of transitional labour markets (TLM) has been prominent in labour market policy discussions in the European Union for the last ten years. It has provided tools not only for recent labour market reforms in a number of advanced member states but has also played a prominent role in the design of the European Employment Strategy (EES). And it has been influential during the evaluation of the EES by the Kok Commissions and in the revision of the EES after the Lisbon summit.

In a certain sense the TLM concept lies at the heart of the European Social Model (ESM). Two notions can be distinguished in debates over the ESM. In a narrow view, the ESM defines the constitutive elements of the supranational role of the European Union in introducing both uniform regulations and standards for the harmonisation of social and employment laws as well as coordinating member state laws and policies in these areas. In a broader understanding, the ESM describes the common core in providing welfare that underlies the diverse understandings of the welfare state and its role in the EU and its member states. Insofar as the European-level ESM is concerned, it has a number of specific characteristics that delineate it from national welfare models. Three functional aspects stand out: its decentral structure, its plural nature and its reflexive style of policy making. The talk argues that the constitutive feature of the TLM concept in combining social and employment areas in order to ease transitions offers a promising basis for the reflexive streamlining of policies that is currently at the forefront of reform efforts of the EES.

Ralf Rogowski (Dr. iur (EUI, Florence), LL.M (Wisconsin), Ass.iur (Berlin)) is Reader in Law and Director of the Social Theory Centre at the University of Warwick, UK. He is teaching and researching in the areas of European Union law, employment law and policy, legal theory, sociology of law, and comparative law and has a particular interest in applying social systems theory to the study of law. For some years he is engaged in research on labour market policy in the European Union using the transitional labour market perspective. He is currently in the process of editing a collection entitled ‘The European Social Model: Law and Policy of Transitional Labour Markets’ (forthcoming, Ashgate). His other publications include ‘The Shape of the New Europe’ (forthcoming with C. Turner, Cambridge University Press), ‘Labour Market Efficiency in the European Union’ (1998 with K Schömann and T. Kruppe, Routledge). He is also the editor of *Constitutional Courts in Comparison* (2002, Berghahn) and *Civil Law* (1996, Ashgate) and the general editor of the book series *Studies in Modern Law and Policy* (Ashgate).

This is an invitation of the research area “Employment, Social Structure, and Welfare State” related to its seminar series “The European Social Model”.

