



Corporate Power in a Changing World: Regulation, Human Rights, and Democracy

REBALANCE
OBSERVATORY

 Funded by
the European Union
Grant n° 101061342

22 MAY 2026

Online Event 14:00 - 18:00 CET



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Organizing Committee:

Elena Assenza; Elisa Giuliani;
Verdiana Morreale; Giulia Rossello
- Rebalance Observatory

Information:

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program:

14:00 - 14:05] **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

14:05 - 15:30] **Session I: Business and Human Rights,
Rule of Law, and Corporate Accountability**

Chair: **Olena Uvarova**

- **Sanna Strom** (London South Bank University)
Human rights accountability: the BRAVE database and the Corporate Actors and the Rule of Law Index
- **Gabrielle Holly** (Chief Adviser at Danish Institute for Human Rights)
Engaging in the Omnibus I process: preserving core elements of business and human rights regulation amid shifting political priorities
- **Maria-Therese Gustafsson** (Stockholm University)
Rethinking Regulatory Change: Business Positions and Supply Chain Due Diligence in the EU
- **Arianna Rossi** (International Labour Organization, ILO)
Decent work in supply chains - the role of the ILO
- **Flaviano Bianchini** (Source International)
Business and human rights in practice. Cases from the ground

15:30 - 16:45] **Session II: Environmental Regulation,
Industrial Policy, and Strategic Lobbying**

Chair: **Tim Bartley**

- **Francesco Zirpoli, Rachele Cavara** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Business influence on EU regulatory processes
- **Tommaso Pardi** (ENS Paris-Saclay) **The EU "Incomplete" governance and the (dys)functional role of lobbying**
- **Philip Schleifer** (University of Amsterdam)
The EU Deforestation Regulation in Times of Backlash
- **Stefan Renckens** (University of Toronto)
Private Assurance in EU Regulation
- **Luc Fransen** (University of Amsterdam) - **Citizen Perspectives on EU Environmental Regulations: New Evidence from Survey Experiments**

16:45 - 17:00] **Break**

17:00 - 17:45] **Session III: Populism, Democratic
Backsliding, and Corporate Political Strategy**

Chair: **Francesco Rullani**

- **Markus Scholz** (TU Dresden) - **Corporate political engagement to protect democracy: If, when and how?**
- **Kostas Iatridis** (University of Bath)
Business responses to populism
- **Elisa Giuliani** (University of Pisa)
Dust and the City: Corporate Emissions and Electoral Discontent

17:45 - 18:00] **Wrap Up** All speakers invited