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Freiburg Symposium:

The Criminal Law Protection of Democracy and the Constitution in the Era of Digitalisation

University of Freiburg, 19 – 20 June 2026

Friday, 19 June

Until 14:00 Arrival of Participants

14:00 – 14:10 Welcome Words: *Maria Kaiafa-Gbandi*

Panel 1: Presentation of the Research Project "European Criminal Policy in Times of Digitalisation"

14:10 – 14:30 Methodology and Essential Results of the Comparative Legal Analysis – *Sebastian Ahlfs* and *Ronja Thümmler*

14:30 – 15:15 The Criminal Law Protection of Democracy and the Constitution: Guidelines for EU Harmonisation – *Frank Zimmermann*

15:15 – 15:30 Commentary – *Manuel Cancio Meliá*

15:30 – 15:45 Commentary – *Anne Schneider*

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:00 General Discussion – Chair: *Jannemieke Ouwerkerk*

Frank Zimmermann, Anne Schneider, Manuel Cancio Meliá, Maria Jose Pifarré

Panel 2: Can Criminalisation Help to Protect Democracy? – Chair: *Sławomir Steinborn*

17:00 – 17:20 Criminal Law, Democracy and Politics. Criminalisation as Sinon's Gift? – *Nicola Recchia*

17:20 – 17:40 Criminalisation as a Response to Political Deepfakes? A Comparative Analysis and the Search for Alternative Approaches – *Federica Fedorczyk*

17:40 – 18:00 Discussion

Saturday, 20 June

Panel 3: Insights from Selected Member States – Chair: *Adán Nieto Martín*

09:00 – 09:20 Politicians & Deepfakes: Balancing and Protecting Democratic Values from a Belgian Criminal Law Perspective – *Wendy De Bondt*

09:20 – 09:40 Electoral Crimes under German Criminal Law and the Digital Challenge – *Jara Streuer*

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09:40 – 10:00	Election Manipulation in the Digital Age: Lessons from Denmark on Freedom of Information and Electoral Integrity – *Søren Arvig Verdoner*
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion

Coffee Break

Panel 4: Looking Beyond (National) Criminal Law: European and Procedural Aspects – Chair: *Ingeborg Zerbes*

11:00 – 11:20	The Role of European Criminal Law in Protecting Democracy – *Valsamis Mitsilegas*
11:20 – 11:40	Criminal Prosecution and Deepfakes – *Johanna Hahn*
11:40 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00	Farewell Words: *Helmut Satzger*

Venue:	Wilhelmstraße 26, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau
	Room: R 01 014 (first floor)
	The conference will take place exclusively in presence.
Contact:	eu.criminal.law@jura.uni-freiburg.de
	Further information:
	https://uni-freiburg.de/jura-internationales-strafrecht/veranstaltungen/

Registration is mandatory (see next page).

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