In this lecture, Prof. Ramses A. Wessel discusses the relationships between European law and international law. When discussing this issue, most scholars so far have focused on the effects of international law on and in the EU and the question to what extent the EU could be said to be bound by international norms. Yet, the coming of age of the EU as a global actor may slowly turn the EU from a recipient into a contributor to the further development of international law. Therefore, the question underlying this lecture is not how international law is received by the EU, but how EU law is (or could be) received by the international legal order. Phrased otherwise, this lecture is not about the effects of international law, but about the effects on international law. So, where the question of the ‘Europeanisation of international law’ is usually understood as dealing with the way in which international law is ‘Europeanised’ when it becomes part of the EU legal order (leading to questions on the emergence of a distinct European system of international law or the consequences of this ‘Europeanisation’ for the unity and coherence of public international law), we will assess the way in which international law is ‘Europeanised’ outside the EU as well as the extent to which this is possible.

The lecture is open to all, but the place is limited. Please register with: Secretariaat.IER@uu.nl