

Obituary for Friedl Weiss (1946–2025)

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Friedl Weiss (28 November 1946 – 15 September 2025), an outstanding Austrian legal scholar and internationally recognised expert in European law, international economic law, and the law of international organisations.

After studying law at the University of Vienna (Dr.iur. 1970), his academic path took him to the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Brussels (Licence spéciale en Droit Européen, Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Cambridge (Downing College), leading to an international academic career. He taught at the University of Birmingham, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of Amsterdam, where from 1992 to 2006 he was Professor of International Economic Law and International Organizations. From 2006 to 2014, he held the Chair of European Law at the University of Vienna. He also held visiting professorships at renowned universities across Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia. His scholarly work focused in particular on European and international economic law, WTO and GATT law, as well as the law of international organisations.

Beyond academia, he was sought after as an adviser to international organisations such as EFTA, the GATT Secretariat, various UN institutions, and the European Union.

For his contributions he received numerous honours, including the Decoration of Honour for Science and Art, First Class of the Republic of Austria (2012) and the Jean Monnet Lifelong Learning Award of the European Commission (2011).

Friedl Weiss leaves behind a rich scholarly legacy and an international community of colleagues and students who will remember him as a brilliant scholar, a dedicated teacher, and a good-humoured warm-hearted person.