Abstract
It will be apparent that the UK’s withdrawal from the EU is having profound economic, political, legal and constitutional consequences. Quite apart from technical legal issues related to routine matters of trade, there has been evidence of serious unrest in Northern Ireland and Scotland appears to be moving towards a second independence referendum which, in turn, might lead to a break up of the UK as a nation state. Although the deal the UK reached with Europe has provided a framework for the nation’s future relationship with Europe, the multi-faceted agreement falls short in reconciling the conflicting domestic pressures in a system of multi-levelled governance. In his keynote, Peter Leyland will evaluate two main aspects: first, the revised procedures for the co-ordination of policy implementation in the UK’s devolved system of government and law-making, second the challenges presented by the so-called ‘Irish Backstop’.

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