**Biography Christel MERCADÉ**

Christel Mercadé is a lawyer specialised in the protection of EU fundamental rights. She works for the European Commission’s Directorate General for Justice, on the enforcement of EU law combating racism and xenophobia, as well as designing and implementing EU policies on this area, with a particular focus on the fight against hate speech online. She is also in charge of mainstreaming fundamental social rights. Before joining the Commission she served as an external legal consultant for the Commission (2014), as Human Rights lawyer before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights at the Peruvian NGO APRODEH (2011-2012) and as labour lawyer at the Spanish Lawfirm Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves, Pereira (2008-2011). Her educational background includes a degree in Economics (2006) and a degree in Law (2009) at the University Pompeu Fabra (Spain) and University of Leicester (UK) and a Master of European Law (LL M) at the College of Europe, Bruges (2012). She is a member of the Barcelona Bar association.