



The Courts and Environmental Conflicts: The Case of Climate Change

Tuesday 1 December 2015

Maastricht University

ICIS institute / Law Faculty

Venue: Kapoenstraat 2, Maastricht / Room 0009

While more than 190 countries will be negotiating under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, this workshop will discuss the role of the courts for climate change matters. Core focus goes to exploring what kind of climate related claims can or are submitted to the courts, particularly in Europe, and whether such claims may be successful. Legal adjudication in this field deals with a broad range of issues, varying from urging more ambitious governmental action to appealing against the establishment of renewable energy projects. Speakers will introduce to the audience several legal claims from current practice. Moreover, fundamental issues will be addressed, like the role of science in the courtroom, the deference courts should give to political decision-making, and how much policy room is left to EU Member States in view of EU climate law. All in all, the workshop will provide important insights about the potential role that law may play in the political and societal discussions regarding climate action.



- 10.30 – 11.00 Welcome, Registration
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Climate Action before the Courts: the future of liability claims**
Prof. Dr. Michael Faure, Professor of Comparative and International Environmental Law, Maastricht University
- 11.30-12.00 **Climate case law in the EU: a patchwork of rules and claims**
Prof. Dr. Marjan Peeters, Professor of Environmental Policy and Law, Maastricht University
- 12.00-12.30 **Questions and Discussion**
- 12.30-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-13.30 **Addressing coal fired power installations before the courts: experiences from practice**
Marga Robesin, Lawyer, Stichting Natuur en Milieu
- 13.30-14.00 **The Urgenda case**
Ted Thurlings, Lawyer, PhD candidate, Radboud University, Nijmegen
- 14.00- 14.30 Questions and Discussion
- 14.30-14.45 Break
- 14.45-15.15 **How do administrative courts deal with environmental claims? A view from judicial practice**
Dr. René Seerden, judge at the district court and Associate Professor of Comparative Administrative and Environmental Law, Maastricht University
- 15.15-15.45 **Procedural rights and climate change**
Sandra Nóbrega, Junior lecturer, Maastricht University
- 15.45-16.15 Discussion
- 16.15-16.30 **Reflection from ICIS: Prof. Pim Martens, Professor of Sustainable Development and scientific director of the ICIS Institute.**
- 16.30 Closure, drinks