

Workshop Environmental Law I

Ius Commune Conference 2015

Friday, 27 November (09.00 – 12.00)

Building: Oude Valk

Room: Vergaderzaal (DV1 91.55)

Participants

Theme EU Environmental Law & Policy and the Juncker Commission: Retreat or Progress ?

At the end of 2014, the Juncker Commission had a difficult “environmental” start : several (legislative) proposals (air, waste, etc.), as put forward by the Barroso II Commission, were simply withdrawn or were withdrawn to be modified for the better. These intentions were strongly condemned by the academic world and many environmental NGOs.

At the same time, a “better regulation agenda”, authored by first vice-president Timmermans, was announced for the summer of 2015.

Nonetheless, several commissioners presently go (already) ahead with new legislation, with an impact on the environment. Reference can be made to the plans of the Energy Commissioner (legislation implementing the Energy Union), the Climate Commissioner (legislation reforming the EU ETS) and the Trade Commissioner (preparing the US-EU TTIP).

By the time of the workshop, November 2015, much of these new regulatory approaches will be public, allowing us to make a first evaluation of the environmental (including energy and climate change) regulatory ambitions of the Juncker Commission.

Is the new regulatory approach indeed an improvement, or not ... ?

During the workshop, members of the Research Group Transboundary Environmental Law will deliver presentations on the new regulatory approach of the Juncker Commission in environmental matters. These focus on the content of the new regulatory proposals, particularly in the field of energy, and, more fundamentally, on the shift of institutional powers that may be caused by the current approach of the Juncker Commission, and the question of how to achieve progress with the enforcement of EU environmental law.

(The indicated speaking time below includes discussion. Presentations should take a maximum of 20 minutes and can already finish after 15 minutes in order to provide more discussion time)

Part I: Energy Issues in View of Better Regulation

Chair: Kurt Deketelaere (KU Leuven)

09.00 – 09.05 **Kurt Deketelaere** (KU Leuven)
Welcome and Introductions

09.05 – 09.30 **Raf Callaerts** (KU Leuven)
The Energy Union in View of the Commission's better Regulation programme: New Regulatory Ambitions?

09.30 – 09.55 **Sander van Hees** (Utrecht University)
The Commissions' Better Regulation Programme in View of New and Innovative Forms of Renewable Energy Production

09.55 – 10.20 **Taotao Yue** (Maastricht University)
Better Regulation of Sustainability of Biofuels in the EU?

10.20 – 10.35 Coffee break

10.35 – 11.00 **Thomas de Romph** (KU Leuven)
The Revival of the Circular Economy Package: A Test for the Better Regulation Programme and the Introduction of a Life-cycle Perspective

Part II: Institutional and Enforcement Issues in View of Better Regulation

11.00 – 11.25 **Michael Faure** (Maastricht University)
Enforcement of EU Environmental Law: Progress or Retreat?

11.25 – 11.50 **Nicolas de Sadeleer**
Critical Observations on the Shift of Powers in View of the Commission's better Regulation Programme

11.50 – 12.00 Final discussion and conclusion