



**Ius Commune Conference Utrecht,  
28-29 November 2024**

**Call for Abstracts  
Ius Commune workshop on  
Corporate Climate  
Transition Plans**



Ius Commune workshop on:  
**CORPORATE CLIMATE TRANSITION PLANS**

Call for abstracts

**November 28-29, Utrecht**

**Chairs:**

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**Topic:**

To avoid irreversible and abrupt climate impacts, governments have agreed to rapidly transition towards an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue efforts to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C. However, with the implemented policies, we are currently heading towards 3.2°C warming. The required emissions reductions for preventing dangerous global warming cannot be achieved by governments alone. Companies emit the largest share of the world's GHGs and play a key role in shaping the global economy. Therefore, sustaining a liveable planet hinges on companies aligning their actions with climate goals.

Until recently, companies never had a direct obligation to reduce their emissions. Building on the recently implemented *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)*, the *Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)* requires large companies to adopt a 'Climate Transition Plan' (CTP) containing 'time-bound reduction targets' to ensure that 'their business model and strategy are compatible with the limiting of global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C'.

While the CSDDD can be hailed as a major breakthrough for mitigating global warming, it also challenges elementary principles of corporate law and adds a set of profoundly new requirements for companies to the already complex legal landscape, leading to various fundamental questions. For instance, how can be determined whether a particular climate transition plan is, in fact, compatible with the 1.5°C-target? How can the reduction obligation be reconciled with other duties a company has, for instance vis-à-vis contractual relations? Is the company supposed to achieve its climate goals even when profitability is at stake? And what are the legal consequences for a company and its board when a company does not meet its reduction targets?

**Call:**

For this panel, we welcome contributions that address the legal aspects of climate transition planning, greenwashing and net-zero objectives. Case studies are also welcome. Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract of 250-400 words to the organizers no later than August 30<sup>th</sup> 2024. Shortly after the deadline, applicants will be informed whether their proposals have been selected for presentation during the workshop. The outline of the presentation is expected by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. All contributions must be in English. Co-authored presentations are welcome. We aim to organize or facilitate a joint publication.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the organizing committee.