



12th EELF Conference 2025

Climate adaptation and resilience: legal avenues to
prepare Europe for survival in a hothouse world

10 - 12 September 2025

Programme Book



EELF
European Environmental
Law Forum



Welcome to Ghent

The EELF annual conference is meant to be the major annual assembly of European Environmental Law scholars and practitioners. It provides a unique opportunity to meet colleagues from across Europe and to discuss topical issues of environmental law development and implementation. The conference combines plenary keynotes, parallel sessions and an attractive social programme. It is addressed to both experienced senior experts and younger colleagues. The 12th Conference 2025 is hosted by Ghent University and is dedicated to climate adaptation and resilience.

Conference theme:

2024 is now certain to be the hottest year on record, and the first in which average global temperatures exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period. Extreme climate events such as heatwaves, drought and flooding are occurring with increasing severity and frequency, also in Europe. While greenhouse gas emissions in the EU fell by 8% in 2023, mainly thanks to the boom in renewables, other parts of the world will continue to burn carbon and fossil fuels for the years to come. This renders a scenario more likely in which more torrential downpours, hurricanes, floods but also droughts and heatwaves will become a recurring challenge, also in many parts of Europe, for the decades to come. Economic losses from extreme climate-related events in the EU have averaged €26 billion per year over the last decade. Inaction, too, has a cost: exposing today's EU economy to global warming of 1.5 to 3°C above pre-industrial levels would result in an annual economic loss of between €42 and €175 billion. While stopping the burning of fossil fuels remains crucial, climate adaptation will be indispensable, with the potential of saving hundreds, possibly thousands of lives while also generating many jobs as well as providing other societal benefits.

It is thus self-evident that climate adaptation will have to move to the forefront of the Member States' environmental and urban planning strategies in the decades to come. In a hothouse world, we will no longer have the luxury to wait and see. Stepping up existing climate adaptation efforts, will be a fundamental policy challenge. However, it is clear that prioritizing climate adaptation also raises a multitude of legal questions linked to, amongst others, climate law, disaster law, biodiversity and nature restoration law, urban planning, agricultural and fisheries policies, human rights law, intergenerational justice, property law,...

Accordingly, the 2025 EELF Conference in Ghent is focusing on the role that the law will have to play in stimulating the much-needed paradigm shift towards climate adaptation in the EU..

Enjoy the EELF2025 conference and your stay in Ghent.

The Organising Committee,

An Cliquet, Hendrik Schoukens, Geert Van Hoorick, Kristien Ballegeer

EELF Programme Overview

Wednesday 10 September 2025

08.00 Registration and Coffee

09:00 Welcome and introduction to the conference program (room: Kapittelzaal)

An Cliquet & Hendrik Schoukens (conference organizers, Ghent University)

Lorenzo Squintani (EELF Board)

Michel Tison (Dean of Faculty of Law & Criminology)

Geert Van Hoorick (Director Centre for Environmental & Energy law)

Alderman Filip Watteeuw (City of Ghent)

09:45 **Plenary – Keynote**

Chair: An Cliquet

The EU's strategy for adapting to climate change: making Europe resilient

Kurt Vandenberghe

Biography: *Mr. Kurt Vandenberghe is Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General Climate Action (DG CLIMA), working with a team of 300 competent and committed colleagues to design and implement EU climate policies so that Europe can become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. A continent that is also climate resilient. Mr. Vandenberghe has held numerous positions during his 27 years at the European Commission, including European Green Deal and Health Advisor in the Cabinet of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen; Director for Climate Action and Resource Efficiency at DG Research and Innovation; and Head of Cabinet for European Commissioners in charge of environment and research & innovation – among much more.*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Plenary – Keynotes**

Chair: Moritz Reese

Let's not drain our swamps (and landscapes): sustainable hydrology and water management as solutions in a hothouse world?

Patrick Willems (KULeuven)

Biography: *Full professor Urban and River Hydrology and Hydraulics KU Leuven, director of the Arenberg Doctoral School for Science, Engineering and Technology KU Leuven. Advisor innovating water management company Sumaqua and Chair board of directors urban water sector organisation VLARIO. Member of the board of directors Flanders' land management authority VLM - Vlaamse Landmaatschappij. Former Appointments: Head of the Hydraulics and Geotechnics Section – Department of Civil Engineering KU Leuven (2016-2024). Expertise: Statistical analysis and stochastic modelling of hydrological extremes, extreme value analysis, hydrological time series analysis, impact of climate change, climate adaptation planning. River and urban drainage modelling: Spatial rainfall modelling, river catchment hydrological modelling, hydraulic river flood modelling, physico-chemical river water quality modelling, impact of sewer systems on receiving surface waters, bi-directional river-sewer interaction, real-time forecasting and control, uncertainty analysis.*

Climate adaptation: from soft law to a positive human rights duty?

Luc Lavrysen (Belgian Constitutional Court)

Biography: *Master's degree in law (Ghent University, 1979) and doctor in law (Ghent University, 1997)*
Lawyer with the non-profit associations Woonfonds Gent and Brusselse Buurtwerken (1979-1982);
legal secretary at the Constitutional Court (1985-2000); councillor at the Council of State (2000-2001)
Research assistant (full-time 1983-1985; part-time 1985-1989), teaching assistant (1989-1991),
academic consultant (1991-1992), visiting professor (1992- 1998), lecturer (since 1998) and full
professor in environmental law at Ghent University;
Director of the Centre for Environmental and Energy Law (since 1 January 2000); member of the
Federal Council for Sustainable Development and President of the working group on product standards
of that Council (1997-2021); former Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Environmental Law, and President
of the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment Appointed Judge to the Constitutional Court by Royal
Decree of 19 January 2001 and elected (Dutch speaking) President with effect from 25 September 2020

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Parallel Sessions 1**

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Parallel Sessions 2**

17:00 End of 1st day's program

19:00 **Reception / Conference Dinner, City hall**

Thursday 11 September 2025

09:00 **Plenary – Keynotes** (room: Kapittelzaal)

Chair: Lorenzo Squintani

“What if ... abrupt and extreme climate change?” Some legal perspectives on scientific uncertainty

Marjan Peeters (Maastricht University)

Biography: *Marjan Peeters has been a professor of environmental policy and law at Maastricht University since April 2008. Since the start of her studies in environmental law in 1987, she has focused on understanding how to effectively and efficiently achieve a high level of environmental protection based on the rule of law and in context of sustainable development.*

Her core research covers legal aspects of climate change, regulatory instruments for reducing emissions, environmental procedural rights, and the way in which law deals with uncertain risks. She volunteers with a nature organisation that manages a nature reserve near Maastricht since 2024.

Addressing the cow in the room: how to move away from animal-source foods?

Jonathan Verschuuren (Tilburg University)

Biography: *Prof.dr. Jonathan Verschuuren is a professor of International and European Environmental Law at Tilburg Law School (Netherlands), an EU Marie Skłodowska Curie alumnus at the University of Sydney, and an extraordinary professor at North-West University and the University of the Western Cape. In 2017, he was awarded the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Senior Scholarship Prize. His primary research focus is on climate change law. He has been working on a range of topics in that field, such climate change adaptation and the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security, and on reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.*

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 **Parallel Sessions 3**

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Parallel Sessions 4**

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 **Parallel Sessions 5**

17:00 **End of sessions**

17:30 **City trip** (guided boat trip from conference venue to city centre)

18:30 End of 2nd day

Friday 12 September 2025

09:00 **Parallel Sessions 6**

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Plenary – Keynote and closing speech** (room: Kapittelzaal)

Chair: Hendrik Schoukens

This year is the coldest year of the rest of our lives

Ignace Schops (Director Regional landscape Kempen en Maasland)

Biography: *Ignace Schops is director of the Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw (RLKM), president of the Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL) and former president of the EUROPARC Federation, the largest network for nature in Europe. He is a full member of the European section of the Club of Rome. Ignace Schops was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, and selected as an ASHOKA fellow, world leading social entrepreneur. He is Honorary Doctor at Hasselt University, member of the Climate Leadership Corps of Al Gore. Ignace Schops is co-founder and vice-president of 'Klimaatzaak' and author the book 'Saved by the Tree Frog'.*

Closing speech & announcement of EELF 2026

Hendrik Schoukens & An Cliquet

12:30 End of morning session

13:00 **Excursion to Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe**

18:30 End of excursion (back in Ghent)

Parallel Sessions (Details)

Parallel sessions 1 – Wednesday 10 September 13:30-15:00

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 1.1 Biodiversity & restoration 1

(Assessing & integration of nature conservation law)

Chair: Alexandra Aragão

Do we need to rethinking EU conservation nature (biodiversity) law?

Mariusz Baran (Abstract 1.1.1)

Water in the landscape – how to reconcile climate adaptation, water management and biodiversity concerns?

Helle Tegner Anker (Abstract 1.1.2)

Marine biodiversity protection in EU environmental law – falling through the cracks of legal fragmentation?

Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen (Abstract 1.1.3)

The assessments of alternatives in environmental law directives

Tessa Röttscheid (Abstract 1.1.4)

The limits of environmental impact assessments and health impact assessments to cope with new challenges: towards a more comprehensive “One Health” impact assessment?

Elisa Cavallin (Abstract 1.1.5)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 1.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 1

(Disaster law & adaptation governance)

Chair: Farah Bouquelle

The Role of EU Law in Responding to Natural Disasters: building resilience in a changing risk landscape

Kleoniki Pouikli (Abstract 1.2.1)

Strengthening the legal framework for climate justice and disaster control in Nigeria: Lessons from Europe

Temilade O. Jolaosho & Adeniyi I. Olatunbosun (Abstract 1.2.2)

Extreme Heat: Can International Human Rights Law cool the Future?

Vesselina Newman (Abstract 1.2.3)

From Prevention to Adaptation? Legal Reflections on Shifting Climate Discourses in International Governance

Giorgia Carratta (Abstract 1.2.4)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 1.3: Urban & land-use planning 1 (Permitting & planning)

Chair: Geert Van Hoorick

Taking biodiversity into account when insulating buildings: a crucial requirement if urban wildlife is to adapt to climate change

Charles-Hubert Born (Abstract 1.3.1)

Promoting circular economy practices within the building permit and its procedure to ensure livable and flourishing cities in Belgium (and beyond)

Jonas Voorter & Mariet Stiers (Abstract 1.3.2)

Legal frameworks for the integration of climate adaptation in local spatial planning (opportunities and barriers)

Justyna Goździewicz-Biechońska (Abstract 1.3.3)

Territorial Approaches to Climate Adaptation: Rethinking Spatial Planning for Resilient and Sustainable Human Landscapes

Raquel Carvalho (Abstract 1.3.4)

Legally Robust AI in Climate Adaptation Planning: Aligning Risk Regulation and Interdisciplinary Perspectives under the EU Artificial Intelligence Act

Lina Irscheid (Abstract 1.3.5)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 1.4 Agriculture

Chair: Jonathan Verschuuren

The uses and abuses of security in food and energy law and policy

Matti Gurreck (Abstract 1.4.1)

Legal pathways for climate adaptation in intensive livestock farming

Lucie Zdráhalová (Abstract 1.4.2)

Legal hurdles for agroforestry under the EU Common Agricultural Policy

Marina Klimke (Abstract 1.4.3)

Enhancing Animal Welfare in the Context of Climate Adaptation

Elien Verniers (Abstract 1.4.4)

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 2.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 2

(Offsetting & net gain)

Chair: Volker Mauerhofer

Developing Nature Credits: Lessons from Finland's Biodiversity Offsetting System and Assessment of the System from the Point of View of Climate Adaptation

Minna Pappila (Abstract 2.1.1)

Compulsory purchase for biodiversity offsets – a comparative analysis of German and Norwegian law

Håvard Bergheim (Abstract 2.1.2)

Harnessing Private Financing for Nature Restoration – Lessons Learnt from Carbon Credits

Leila Suvantola & Suvi Borgström (Abstract 2.1.3)

Citizen engagement and spatial risk in nature recovery: Early lessons and late warnings from the United Kingdom

Ketan Jha & Brontie Ansell (Abstract 2.1.4)

Into a maze of forest trails: how national law can grow (or slow) EU green goals on climate resilient forests

Edo Schoone (Abstract 2.1.5)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 2.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 2

(Justice & basis for adaptation laws)

Chair: Kleoniki Pouikli

Just transition in framework climate laws: Between meaningful governance and performative law

Vilja Johansson (Abstract 2.2.1)

'Just resilience': Understanding the Dimension of Equity or Justice in EU Climate Adaptation Law

Elias Van Gool (Abstract 2.2.2)

From evidence to action: legal pathways for science-based climate adaptation?

Eleonora Ciscato (Abstract 2.2.3)

Ex post evaluation of climate framework legislation

Paula Leskinen (Abstract 2.2.4)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 2.3 Urban & land-use planning 2 (Nature based solutions)

Chair: Charles-Hubert Born

Designing sustainable and healthy cities for all through nature-based solutions. Towards a binding integration of climate adaptation concerns into Flemish spatial policy planning

Caroline Van Esbroeck (Abstract 2.3.1)

Nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation in urban areas: a Norwegian planning perspective

Gunnhild Storbekkrønning Solli (Abstract 2.3.2)

Governing Urban Trees as Nature-Based Solutions: A Legal Analysis of Tree Management in the City of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Liping Dai (Abstract 2.3.3)

Mainstreaming nature-based solutions: Obstacles to and drivers for natural stormwater management in the Italian legal system

Francesco Venuti (Abstract 2.3.4)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 2.4 EIA & environmental democracy

Chair : Chris Backes

I'm still standing: assessing the environmental impacts of legacy infrastructure in the face of climate adaptation

Maja Starosta (Abstract 2.4.1)

Strengthening climate adaptation and resilience through the mitigation hierarchy: empirical insights from environmental impact assessments in Flanders (Belgium)

Sharleen Quarem (Abstract 2.4.2)

Public involvement in climate adaptation policies and procedures

Jerzy Jendrośka (Abstract 2.4.3)

Designing effective and equal opportunities for public participation in biodiversity restoration

Morgan Eleanor Harris (Abstract 2.4.4)

Enhancing Climate Adaptation through Transparency: The Role of AI in Advancing Access to Environmental Information

Renée Knoop (Abstract 2.4.5)

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 3.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 3

(Nature, energy & climate adaptation)

Chair: Elisa Cavallin

Captured Biogenic CO₂ from Forestry Biomass: A Sustainable Pathway for Climate Adaptation?

Emilie Yliheljo, Susanna Kaavi (presenter), Tiina Paloniitty (presenter) (abstract 3.1.1)

Forest Actions as Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Adaption under the EU Taxonomy

Yixin Xu (abstract 3.1.2)

The LULUCF-regulation in Flemish case law: a closed door for a ‘climate test’ in environmental permitting?

Britt Bocken (abstract 3.1.3)

EU Law and the energy transition: Leaving soils behind?

Matteo Fermeglia & Heloísa Oliveira (abstract 3.1.4)

Economic Tools for the Alignment of the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources with the Protection of Biodiversity in the EU

Theodoros G. Iliopoulos (abstract 3.1.5)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 3.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 3

(National adaptation laws)

Chair: Elien Verniers

Adaptation in Framework Climate Laws

Bolesław Matuszewski & Gizem Koç (abstract 3.2.1)

Federal Climate Adaptation Act of Germany

Tim Heidler (abstract 3.2.2)

Are the Swedish Climate Adaptation Strategies delivering meaningful results for the EU’s Green Deal and SDGs?

Monirul Azam (abstract 3.2.3)

Legal Conflicts between Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Planning and Infrastructure Law in England: Implications for Blue-Green Infrastructure Management – A Case Study of Surrey County Council

Feja Lesniewska (abstract 3.2.4)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 3.3 Marine ecosystems

Chair: Suvi-Tuuli Pulharinen

Match or clash? Blue carbon governance and biodiversity protection in marine ecosystems

Simon Vanhove (*abstract 3.3.1*)

Nature-Based Solutions and Legal Challenges: Bridging Legal Gaps in Blue Carbon Protection

Freya Russell (*abstract 3.3.2*)

Advancing Climate Adaptation and Resilience through Maritime Spatial Planning in the European Union: A Case Study of Offshore Wind Energy Development

Laura Ruszel (*abstract 3.3.3*)

Reconciling Offshore Renewable Energy Development and Fisheries Management: Legal Pathways Toward Synergistic Marine Use in the European Union

Sebastiano Gianino (*abstract 3.3.4*)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 3.4 Human rights

Chair: Federica Cittadino

Between Silence and Obligation: The Unresolved Debate on the Erga Omnes Status of Climate Protection in International Law

Kunjie Wang (*abstract 3.4.1*)

Biodiversity, Nature Restoration Law, and Human Rights

Felix Ekardt (*abstract 3.4.2*)

Reframing human rights: climate adaptation and biodiversity protection as interconnected challenges

Katia Laffusa (*abstract 3.4.3*)

Property rights as obstacle or lever for climate adaptation: is a rethink possible?

Hendrik Schoukens (*abstract 3.4.4*)

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 4.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 4
(Nature Restoration Regulation)

Chair: Laura Hildt

Complement the Directed: The EU's Nature Restoration Regulations' relation to the Habitats, Birds and Environmental Liability Directives

Volker Mauerhofer (abstract 4.1.1)

Article 4 of the Nature Restoration Regulation: requirements for restoration measures for terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

Bente de Leeuw (abstract 4.1.2)

Rewilding as a necessary tool for ecological restoration and climate adaptation

Gilles De Keer (abstract 4.1.3)

The Restoration of Insects in the Nature Restoration Regulation Under a Changing Climate

Siemen Kalders (abstract 4.1.4)

The Legal Protection of Deadwood as Saproxylic Beetle Habitat under EU Nature Conservation Law

Nina Verbeek & Rens Claerhoudt (abstract 4.1.5)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 4.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 4
(Governance)

Chair: Matteo Fermeglia

A framework law for European adaptation: what can be addressed at the Union's level?

Anne Kling (abstract 4.2.1)

The German "Climate Adaptation Law" a blueprint for multilevel adaptation governance?

Moritz Reese (abstract 4.2.2)

Scales, levels and powers of adaptation legal frameworks. Case studies from federal Belgium

Aurélien Hucq (abstract 4.2.3)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 4.3 Climate justice & litigation 1 (Accountability)

Chair: Lien Stolle

Human rights in climate change litigation, and climate adaptation as a duty of the State

Angel Manuel Moreno & Patrizia Magarò (abstract 4.3.1)

Advancing climate justice in failure to adapt climate cases: the potential of a rights-based approach

Orla Kelleher (abstract 4.3.2)

Enterprise Responsibility for Adaptation Measures

Carola Glinski (abstract 4.3.3)

Public attribution, multiplicity and the future – new directions in climate adaptation law

Naomi Luhde-Thompson (abstract 4.3.4)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 4.4 Opportunities & hurdles 1 (Regulatory opportunities)

Chair: Enrico Mezzacapo

Under Full Sails Towards Sustainability? Law as an Accelerator in the Water Transition

Jan Starke (abstract 4.4.1)

Designing for Uncertainty: Legal Flexibility through Temporality for Climate Adaptation in Spatial Planning. Exploring the Limits and Possibilities of Time-Limited Authorisations in Dutch and European Environmental Law

Marlon Boeve & Ruda van Ravensteijn (abstract 4.4.2)

Case Study: Response to Extensive Storm Éowyn Damage in Ireland. Dealing with Emergencies in the Context of the Requirements of the Habitats Directive

Alison Hardiman (abstract 4.4.3)

The data dilemma in EU climate adaptation law

Rhoda Jennings (abstract 4.4.4)

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 5.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 5
(Nature Restoration Regulation)

Chair: Morgan Harris

The EU's Nature Restoration Law and administrative designs of the Member States: does the procedural organise the institutional? Reflections on the emerging inter-sectoral, multilevel but (still) nation-centred governance framework in the context of transboundary climate change adaptation challenges

Katarzyna Aleksandra Jancewicz (abstract 5.1.1)

The EU Nature Restoration Law as Policy Planning Law?

Marvin Neubauer (abstract 5.1.2)

Interpretative paths for a coherent implementation of the Nature Restoration Law: lessons learned from the Nature Directives jurisprudence

Irene Siciqnano (abstract 5.1.3)

Systemic biodiversity litigation under the EU Nature Restoration Law

Laura Hildt (abstract 5.1.4)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 5.2 Water 1
(Water protection)

Chair: Frank Maes

Nature-based solutions and water safety: legal opportunities and barriers for flood resilient landscapes in the Southwest Delta

H.K. Gilissen & Mart van Esterik (abstract 5.2.1)

Rethinking (and redesigning) EU and Dutch water law for a climate-resilient water system

Dianthe Verhoef (abstract 5.2.2)

Good groundwater status according to WFD: A "climate-proof" framework?

Omid Bechmann (abstract 5.2.3)

Wastewater reuse: water circularity as a pathway to climate-proof water use? Legal avenues for the transition to circular water management

Ida Mae de Waal & Aster Veldkamp (abstract 5.2.4)

Watering the Hydrogen Dream: Legal challenges in Spain's hydrogen ambitions

Álvaro Martín Morán (abstract 5.2.5)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 5.3 Climate justice & litigation 2 (Liabilities & inaction)

Chair : Carole Billiet

Proportionality in Environmental Sanctions

Tadesse Tesfaslassie Tekle (abstract 5.3.1)

Causality in climate lawsuits against a European state by falling short of timely implementing the necessary adaptation measures

Filipa Calheiros Ferraz (abstract 5.3.2)

Stocktaking the best available science for bridging the evidentiary gaps in determining climate liabilities for loss and damage

Haomiao Du (abstract 5.3.3)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 5.4 Opportunities & hurdles 2 (Transformative change)

Chair: Theodoros Iliopoulos

Short-term actions, long-term Impact: overcoming dilemmas of climate change adaptation through transformative nature restoration for sustainable transitions

Alexandra Aragão (abstract 5.4.1)

“LIVING WELL ON A FINITE PLANET: A multidimensional systems approach to sustainability leading to climate change adaption”

Rosalind Malcolm (abstract 5.4.2)

Ecological modelling- a crucial tool in the planning and implementation of climate adaptation strategies

Natalie Harris (abstract 5.4.3)

Justice for Providers: Rethinking Payment of Ecosystem Services for Systemic Change

Varnika Srivastava (abstract 5.4.4)

Responding to climate adaptation challenges: The role of EU energy law and potential regulatory pathways

Ting Chen & Frederik Vandendriessche (abstract 5.4.5)

Room Kapittelzaal [Main room - Level 0]

Session 6.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 6

(Transboundary governance)

Chair: Endrius Cocciolo

Climate adaptation in transboundary biodiversity cooperation schemes: strategies and measures to tackle climate-related challenges in the Julian Alps case

Federica Cittadino (abstract 6.1.1)

On fire ? Gaps in Transboundary Governance of Biodiversity Clusters in Europe. The Case of Wildfire Prevention in the Meseta Ibérica TBR

Maria Marques-Banque, Endrius Cocciolo, Jordi Jaria-Manzano, Alexandre Moreno-Urpí & Mònica Pons-Hernández (abstract 6.1.2)

Restoring nature under climate pressure: balancing restoration and pollution control. Practical challenges from the Scheldt estuary

Nienke Van der Burgt (abstract 6.1.3)

Offshore wind power and migratory fish

Paula Tulppo, (abstract 6.1.4)

Building the bridge between two disparate laws? The Luso-Spanish Convention on shared rivers and its emerging model of addressing climate concerns

Paulo Canelas de Castro (abstract 6.1.5)

Room Monnikenzolder [2nd floor]

Session 6.2 Water 2

(Biodiversity & wetlands)

Chair: Helle Tegner Anker

Wanted only for their services? – Wetland restoration obligations in the Water Framework Directive

Thilo Tesing (abstract 6.2.1)

Restoring wetlands to create resilient nature and societies

Katrine Broch Hauge & Endre Stavang (abstract 6.2.2)

The importance of wetlands for climate adaptation in cities: The Wiels Marsh case study

Matilde Meertens (abstract 6.2.3)

What are the legal challenges concerning water management and spatial planning and land use for rewetting Dutch peatlands and the possible solutions to these challenges?

Martijn van Gils (abstract 6.2.4)

Biodiversity, Water, and Nature Restoration Law in the Czech Republic and Central Europe: Legal Challenges and Climate Resilience

Milan Damohorský (abstract 6.2.5)

Room Warmkamer [1st floor]

Session 6.3 Climate justice & litigation 3
(Litigation)

Chair : Luc Lavrysen

“To Litigate or to Participate, That is The Question”: How the Absence of Environmental Democracy Fuels Climate Justice

Ludovica D'Apote (abstract 6.3.1)

Litigating for Climate Justice: Transnational Litigation in Practice

Kata Dozsa & Liliana Lizarazo Rodriguez (abstract 6.3.2)

From Urgenda to KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz – the normative impact of European jurisprudence on climate justice

Trevor Daya-Winterbottom (abstract 6.3.3)

A human rights-based approach to climate adaptation law – the procedural dimension of positive obligations in “KlimaSeniorinnen” and beyond

Niklas Täufer (abstract 6.3.4)

Room Vrouwenmantel [Ground level]

Session 6.4 Opportunities & hurdles 3
(including economic instruments)

Chair: Eleonora Ciscato

Economic Instruments in the EU Law and their Potential for Enhanced Environmental Protection and Climate Adaptation

Natalie Polanská (abstract 6.4.1)

Regulating the compensation of climate change damages, between private insurances and public interventions

Nadia Cozziola (abstract 6.4.2)

Disaster Insurance for Households and Businesses: Analysing the Italian Experience through a Comparative Lens

Stefano Fanetti (abstract 6.4.3)

Weather derivatives to bear climate risks: embedding sustainability in credit assessment

Michele Cespa (abstract 6.4.4)

Adaptation and the Climate Crisis: towards a European Law of Crises

Francesco Vetrò & Nicola Brignoli (abstract 6.4.5)

Parallel sessions 1 – Wednesday 10 September 13:30-15:00			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
<p>Session 1.1</p> <p>Biodiversity & restoration 1 (Assessing & integration of nature conservation law)</p> <p>Chair: Alexandra Aragão</p>	<p>Session 1.2</p> <p>Climate adaptation & disaster law 1 (Disaster law & adaptation governance)</p> <p>Chair: Farah Bouquelle</p>	<p>Session 1.3</p> <p>Urban & land-use planning 1 (Permitting & planning)</p> <p>Chair: Geert Van Hoorick</p>	<p>Session 1.4</p> <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Chair: Jonathan Verschuuren</p>
<p>Mariusz Baran: Do we need to rethinking EU conservation nature (biodiversity) law?</p> <p>Helle Tegner Anker: Water in the landscape – how to reconcile climate adaptation, water management and biodiversity concerns?</p> <p>Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen: Marine biodiversity protection in EU environmental law – falling through the cracks of legal fragmentation?</p> <p>Tessa Rötscheid: The assessments of alternatives in environmental law directives</p> <p>Elisa Cavallin: The limits of environmental impact assessments and health impact assessments to cope with new challenges: towards a more comprehensive “One Health” impact assessment?</p>	<p>Kleoniki Pouikli: The Role of EU Law in Responding to Natural Disasters: building resilience in a changing risk landscape</p> <p>Temilade O. Jolaosho & Adeniyi I. Olatunbosun: Strengthening the legal framework for climate justice and disaster control in Nigeria: Lessons from Europe</p> <p>Vesselina Newman: Extreme Heat: Can International Human Rights Law cool the Future?</p> <p>Giorgia Carratta: From Prevention to Adaptation? Legal Reflections on Shifting Climate Discourses in International Governance</p>	<p>Charles-Hubert Born: Taking biodiversity into account when insulating buildings: a crucial requirement if urban wildlife is to adapt to climate change</p> <p>Jonas Voorter & Mariet Stiers: Promoting circular economy practices within the building permit and its procedure to ensure livable and flourishing cities in Belgium (and beyond)</p> <p>Justyna Goździewicz-Biechońska: Legal frameworks for the integration of climate adaptation in local spatial planning (opportunities and barriers)</p> <p>Raquel Carvalho: Territorial Approaches to Climate Adaptation: Rethinking Spatial Planning for Resilient and Sustainable Human Landscapes</p> <p>Lina Irscheid: Legally Robust AI in Climate Adaptation Planning: Aligning Risk Regulation and Interdisciplinary Perspectives under the EU Artificial Intelligence Act</p>	<p>Matti Gurreck: The uses and abuses of security in food and energy law and policy</p> <p>Lucie Zdráhalová: Legal pathways for climate adaptation in intensive livestock farming</p> <p>Marina Klimke: Legal hurdles for agroforestry under the EU Common Agricultural Policy</p> <p>Elien Verniers: Enhancing Animal Welfare in the Context of Climate Adaptation</p>

Parallel sessions 2 – Wednesday 10 September 15:30-17:00			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
Session 2.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 2 (Offsetting & net gain) Chair: Volker Mauerhofer	Session 2.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 2 (Justice & basis for adaptation laws) Chair: Kleoniki Pouikli	Session 2.3 Urban & land-use planning 2 (Nature based solutions) Chair: Charles-Hubert Born	Session 2.4 EIA & environmental democracy Chair : Chris Backes
<p>Minna Pappila: Developing Nature Credits: Lessons from Finland's Biodiversity Offsetting System and Assessment of the System from the Point of View of Climate Adaptation</p> <p>Håvard Berghheim: Compulsory purchase for biodiversity offsets – a comparative analysis of German and Norwegian law</p> <p>Leila Suvantola & Suvi Borgström: Harnessing Private Financing for Nature Restoration – Lessons Learnt from Carbon Credits</p> <p>Ketan Jha & Brontie Ansell: Citizen engagement and spatial risk in nature recovery: Early lessons and late warnings from the United Kingdom</p> <p>Edo Schoone: Into a maze of forest trails: how national law can grow (or slow) EU green goals on climate resilient forests</p>	<p>Vilja Johansson: Just transition in framework climate laws: Between meaningful governance and performative law</p> <p>Elias Van Gool: 'Just resilience': Understanding the Dimension of Equity or Justice in EU Climate Adaptation Law</p> <p>Eleonora Ciscato: From evidence to action: legal pathways for science-based climate adaptation?</p> <p>Paula Leskinen: Ex post evaluation of climate framework legislation</p>	<p>Caroline Van Esbroeck: Designing sustainable and healthy cities for all through nature-based solutions. Towards a binding integration of climate adaptation concerns into Flemish spatial policy planning</p> <p>Gunnhild Storbekkrønning Solli: Nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation in urban areas: a Norwegian planning perspective</p> <p>Liping Dai: Governing Urban Trees as Nature-Based Solutions: A Legal Analysis of Tree Management in the City of Utrecht, the Netherlands</p> <p>Francesco Venuti: Mainstreaming nature-based solutions: Obstacles to and drivers for natural stormwater management in the Italian legal system</p>	<p>Maja Starosta: I'm still standing: assessing the environmental impacts of legacy infrastructure in the face of climate adaptation</p> <p>Sharleen Quarem: Strengthening climate adaptation and resilience through the mitigation hierarchy: empirical insights from environmental impact assessments in Flanders (Belgium)</p> <p>Jerzy Jendrośka: Public involvement in climate adaptation policies and procedures</p> <p>Morgan Eleanor Harris: Designing effective and equal opportunities for public participation in biodiversity restoration</p> <p>Renée Knoop: Enhancing Climate Adaptation through Transparency: The Role of AI in Advancing Access to Environmental Information</p>

Parallel sessions 3 – Thursday 11 September 11:00-12:30			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
Session 3.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 3 (Nature, energy & climate adaptation) Chair: Elisa Cavallin	Session 3.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 3 (National adaptation laws) Chair: Elie Verniers	Session 3.3 Marine ecosystems Chair: Suvi-Tuuli Pulharinen	Session 3.4 Human rights Chair: Federica Cittadino
<p>Emilie Yliheltjo, Susanna Kaavi (presenter), Tiina Paloniitty (presenter): Captured Biogenic CO₂ from Forestry Biomass: A Sustainable Pathway for Climate Adaptation?</p> <p>Yixin Xu: Forest Actions as Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Adaption under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p>Britt Bocken: The LULUCF-regulation in Flemish case law: a closed door for a 'climate test' in environmental permitting?</p> <p>Matteo Fermeiglia & Heloísa Oliveira: EU Law and the energy transition: Leaving soils behind?</p> <p>Theodoros G. Iliopoulos: Economic Tools for the Alignment of the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources with the Protection of Biodiversity in the EU</p>	<p>Bolesław Matuszewski & Gizem Koç: Adaptation in Framework Climate Laws</p> <p>Tim Heidler: Federal Climate Adaptation Act of Germany</p> <p>Monirul Azam: Are the Swedish Climate Adaptation Strategies delivering meaningful results for the EU's Green Deal and SDGs?</p> <p>Feja Lesniewska: Legal Conflicts between Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Planning and Infrastructure Law in England: Implications for Blue-Green Infrastructure Management – A Case Study of Surrey County Council</p>	<p>Simon Vanhove: Match or clash? Blue carbon governance and biodiversity protection in marine ecosystems</p> <p>Freya Russell: Nature-Based Solutions and Legal Challenges: Bridging Legal Gaps in Blue Carbon Protection</p> <p>Laura Ruszel: Advancing Climate Adaptation and Resilience through Maritime Spatial Planning in the European Union: A Case Study of Offshore Wind Energy Development</p> <p>Sebastiano Gianino: Reconciling Offshore Renewable Energy Development and Fisheries Management: Legal Pathways Toward Synergistic Marine Use in the European Union</p>	<p>Kunjie Wang: Between Silence and Obligation: The Unresolved Debate on the Erga Omnes Status of Climate Protection in International Law</p> <p>Felix Ekardt: Biodiversity, Nature Restoration Law, and Human Rights</p> <p>Katia Laffusa: Reframing human rights: climate adaptation and biodiversity protection as interconnected challenges</p> <p>Hendrik Schoukens: Property rights as obstacle or lever for climate adaptation: is a rethink possible?</p>

Parallel sessions 4 – Thursday 11 September 13:30-15:00			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
Session 4.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 4 (Nature Restoration Regulation) Chair: Laura Hildt	Session 4.2 Climate adaptation & disaster law 4 (Governance) Chair: Matteo Fermeglia	Session 4.3 Climate justice & litigation 1 (Accountability) Chair: Lien Stolle	Session 4.4 Opportunities & hurdles 1 (Regulatory opportunities) Chair: Enrico Mezzacapo
<p>Volker Mauerhofer: Complement the Directed: The EU's Nature Restoration Regulations' relation to the Habitats, Birds and Environmental Liability Directives</p> <p>Bente de Leeuw: Article 4 of the Nature Restoration Regulation: requirements for restoration measures for terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems</p> <p>Gilles De Keer: Rewilding as a necessary tool for ecological restoration and climate adaptation</p> <p>Siemen Kalders: The Restoration of Insects in the Nature Restoration Regulation Under a Changing Climate</p> <p>Nina Verbeek & Rens Claerhoudt: The Legal Protection of Deadwood as Saproxylic Beetle Habitat under EU Nature Conservation Law</p>	<p>Anne Kling: A framework law for European adaptation: what can be addressed at the Union's level?</p> <p>Moritz Reese: The German "Climate Adaptation Law" a blueprint for multilevel adaptation governance?</p> <p>Aurélien Hucq: Scales, levels and powers of adaptation legal frameworks. Case studies from federal Belgium</p>	<p>Angel Manuel Moreno & Patrizia Magarò: Human rights in climate change litigation, and climate adaptation as a duty of the State</p> <p>Orla Kelleher: Advancing climate justice in failure to adapt climate cases: the potential of a rights-based approach</p> <p>Carola Glinski: Enterprise Responsibility for Adaptation Measures</p> <p>Naomi Luhde-Thompson: Public attribution, multiplicity and the future – new directions in climate adaptation law</p>	<p>Jan Starke: Under Full Sails Towards Sustainability? Law as an Accelerator in the Water Transition</p> <p>Marlon Boeve & Ruda van Ravensteijn: Designing for Uncertainty: Legal Flexibility through Temporality for Climate Adaptation in Spatial Planning. Exploring the Limits and Possibilities of Time-Limited Authorisations in Dutch and European Environmental Law</p> <p>Alison Hardiman: Case Study: Response to Extensive Storm Éowyn Damage in Ireland. Dealing with Emergencies in the Context of the Requirements of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>Rhoda Jennings: The data dilemma in EU climate adaptation law</p>

Parallel sessions 5 – Thursday 11 September 15:30-17:00			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
Session 5.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 5 (Nature Restoration Regulation) Chair: Morgan Harris	Session 5.2 Water 1 (Water protection) Chair: Frank Maes	Session 5.3 Climate justice & litigation 2 (Liabilities & inaction) Chair : Carole Billiet	Session 5.4 Opportunities & hurdles 2 (Transformative change) Chair: Theodoros Iliopoulos
<p>Katarzyna Aleksandra Jancewicz: The EU's Nature Restoration Law and administrative designs of the Member States: does the procedural organise the institutional? Reflections on the emerging inter-sectoral, multilevel but (still) nation-centred governance framework in the context of transboundary climate change adaptation challenges</p> <p>Marvin Neubauer: The EU Nature Restoration Law as Policy Planning Law?</p> <p>Irene Sicignano: Interpretative paths for a coherent implementation of the Nature Restoration Law: lessons learned from the Nature Directives jurisprudence</p> <p>Laura Hildt: Systemic biodiversity litigation under the EU Nature Restoration Law</p>	<p>H.K. Gilissen & Mart van Esterik: Nature-based solutions and water safety: legal opportunities and barriers for flood resilient landscapes in the Southwest Delta</p> <p>Dianthe Verhoef: Rethinking (and redesigning) EU and Dutch water law for a climate-resilient water system</p> <p>Omid Bechmann: Good groundwater status according to WFD: A "climate-proof" framework?</p> <p>Ida Mae de Waal & Aster Veldkamp: Wastewater reuse: water circularity as a pathway to climate-proof water use? Legal avenues for the transition to circular water management</p> <p>Álvaro Martín Morán: Watering the Hydrogen Dream: Legal challenges in Spain's hydrogen ambitions</p>	<p>Tadesse Tesfaslassie Tekle: Proportionality in Environmental Sanctions</p> <p>Filipa Calheiros Ferraz: Causality in climate lawsuits against a European state by falling short of timely implementing the necessary adaptation measures</p> <p>Haomiao Du: Stocktaking the best available science for bridging the evidentiary gaps in determining climate liabilities for loss and damage</p>	<p>Alexandra Aragão: Short-term actions, long-term Impact: overcoming dilemmas of climate change adaptation through transformative nature restoration for sustainable transitions</p> <p>Rosalind Malcolm: "LIVING WELL ON A FINITE PLANET: A multidimensional systems approach to sustainability leading to climate change adaption"</p> <p>Natalie Harris: Ecological modelling- a crucial tool in the planning and implementation of climate adaptation strategies</p> <p>Varnika Srivastava: Justice for Providers: Rethinking Payment of Ecosystem Services for Systemic Change</p> <p>Ting Chen & Frederik Vandendriessche: Responding to climate adaptation challenges: The role of EU energy law and potential regulatory pathways</p>

Parallel sessions 6 – Friday 12 September 9:00-10:30			
Room Kapittelzaal	Room Monnikenzolder	Room Warmkamer	Room Vrouwenmantel
Session 6.1 Biodiversity & restoration law 6 (Transboundary governance) Chair: Endrius Cocciolo	Session 6.2 Water 2 (Biodiversity & wetlands) Chair: Helle Tegner Anker	Session 6.3 Climate justice & litigation 3 (Litigation) Chair : Luc Lavrysen	Session 6.4 Opportunities & hurdles 3 (including economic instruments) Chair: Eleonora Ciscato
<p>Federica Cittadino: Climate adaptation in transboundary biodiversity cooperation schemes: strategies and measures to tackle climate-related challenges in the Julian Alps case</p> <p>Maria Marques-Banque, Endrius Cocciolo, Jordi Jaria-Manzano, Alexandre Moreno-Urpí & Mònica Pons-Hernández: On fire ? Gaps in Transboundary Governance of Biodiversity Clusters in Europe. The Case of Wildfire Prevention in the Meseta Ibérica TBR</p> <p>Nienke Van der Burgt: Restoring nature under climate pressure: balancing restoration and pollution control. Practical challenges from the Scheldt estuary</p> <p>Paula Tulppo: Offshore wind power and migratory fish</p> <p>Paulo Canelas de Castro: Building the bridge between two disparate laws? The Luso-Spanish Convention on shared rivers and its emerging model of addressing climate concerns</p>	<p>Thilo Tesing: Wanted only for their services? – Wetland restoration obligations in the Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Katrine Broch Hauge & Endre Stavang: Restoring wetlands to create resilient nature and societies</p> <p>Matilde Meertens: The importance of wetlands for climate adaptation in cities: The Wiels Marsh case study</p> <p>Martijn van Gils: What are the legal challenges concerning water management and spatial planning and land use for rewetting Dutch peatlands and the possible solutions to these challenges?</p> <p>Milan Damohorský: Biodiversity, Water, and Nature Restoration Law in the Czech Republic and Central Europe: Legal Challenges and Climate Resilience</p>	<p>Ludovica D’Apote: “To Litigate or to Participate, That is The Question”: How the Absence of Environmental Democracy Fuels Climate Justice</p> <p>Kata Dozsa & Liliana Lizarazo Rodriguez: Litigating for Climate Justice: Transnational Litigation in Practice</p> <p>Trevor Daya-Winterbottom: From Urgenda to KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz – the normative impact of European jurisprudence on climate justice</p> <p>Niklas Täuber: A human rights-based approach to climate adaptation law – the procedural dimension of positive obligations in “KlimaSeniorinnen” and beyond</p>	<p>Natálie Polanská: Economic Instruments in the EU Law and their Potential for Enhanced Environmental Protection and Climate Adaptation</p> <p>Nadia Coggiola: Regulating the compensation of climate change damages, between private insurances and public interventions</p> <p>Stefano Fanetti: Disaster Insurance for Households and Businesses: Analysing the Italian Experience through a Comparative Lens</p> <p>Michele Cespa : Weather derivatives to bear climate risks: embedding sustainability in credit assessment</p> <p>Francesco Vetrò & Nicola Brignoli: Adaptation and the Climate Crisis: towards a European Law of Crises</p>

Practical Information

1. Conference Venue

Saint Peter's Abbey (Sint Pietersabdij)

Address: Sint-Pietersplein 9, 9000 Gent

2. Venue Conference dinner

On Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 19:00h the EELF Conference dinner will take place in the Pacificatiezaal of the Ghent City Hall.

Address: Botermarkt 1, 9000 Gent

3. Boat trip to city centre

On Thursday 11 September 2025 at 17:30h you are invited to join us for a guided boat trip from the abbey to the city centre and back to the abbey.

Start: : The boat departs from the conference venue (at the back of the garden of the Saint Peter's abbey)

4. Excursion to Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe

Friday 12 September, 13:00

The bus will leave from Sint-Pietersplein (in front of the conference venue). Return to Ghent will be between 18:00-19:00

Practical information:

In case of rain, please bring some rainwear and comfortable walking shoes.

A take-away picnic will be provided (at the conference venue)

Information on the excursion:

Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe

The excursion explores some major nature and water management projects. It leads us around the 'Doelpolder Noord nature reserve', which was created in agricultural land as compensation for nature lost in the expansion of the port of Antwerp. The walk continues over the Scheldt dike and past the cross-border flooding area Prosperpolder Noord/Hedwigepolder, which has to protect the city of Antwerp from possible consequences of sea level rise. Together, they form one large nature reserve.