



EELF
European Environmental
Law Forum

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SECOND EELF CONFERENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING LAW ASPECTS OF LARGE SCALE PROJECTS

Call for presentations

The second European Environmental Law Forum Conference will take place on **10-12 September, 2014**, jointly hosted by *Hasselt University* and *KU Leuven, Campus Brussels (HUBrussel)*.

After a very successful kick-off meeting of the EELF in 2011 in Leipzig (Germany), organised by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, and the first EELF Conference in 2013 in Groningen (Netherlands), organised by the Groningen Centre of Energy Law, Hasselt University and HUBrussel are proud to organise the second EELF Conference **in Brussels** (Belgium).

The central topic of the second EELF Conference is **“Environmental and Planning Law Aspects of Large Scale Projects”**.

Governments, companies, environmental associations and citizens all over Europe are struggling with large scale projects. On the one hand large scale projects can contribute to economic development, on the other hand they often also raise environmental concerns. Because of their size and potential impact, large scale projects usually lead to heavy debates and quickly become of great symbolic value. Consequently, large scale projects are excellent examples of the difficulty to balance economic development with environmental protection.

The types of large scale projects, planned as well as ‘under construction’ in the EU, are very diverse. One can think of all kinds of infrastructure projects (motorways, railways, waterways, stations, ports, airports,...), building projects (offices, housing projects, sports stadiums, redevelopment of brownfields,...), waste projects (incineration, landfill,...), energy projects (electricity and gas networks, wind farms, biogas installations, heat networks, extraction projects,...), climate projects (CDM projects,...), water projects, etc.

The conference focuses on all kinds of environmental and planning law aspects of large scale projects. These can be subdivided into the following **four subthemes** (with examples of topics they may include):

1. The role of spatial and environmental planning

- spatial planning and land use
- role of EU environmental plans (water management plans, air quality plans, noise reduction plans, etc.)
- strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- relation between planning and permitting stage
- integration of spatial and sectoral infrastructure planning

2. Permitting and review procedures

- environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- procedural integration and coordination
- acceleration and simplification of procedures
- public participation and access to justice

3. Critical sectoral regimes

- nature protection
- air quality
- noise
- water
- climate mitigation and adaptation measures
- soil remediation

4. Horizontal measures

- policy development and regulatory design
- environmental law and economics aspects of project development
- environmental liability
- compliance enhancement

We are interested in perspectives on EU environmental and planning law, as well as comparative and national/regional perspectives (with a potential relevance for other EU Member States).

The goal of the conference is to bring academics, members of EU and national/regional institutions, industry and environmental associations together and exchange views and debate on the central topic. We especially want to also offer an opportunity to young academics to present their research.

The conference will consist of two days of presentations and discussions, and a third day with an excursion.

We hereby welcome abstracts for presentations.

Paper abstracts written in English and focused on the Conference theme are invited for submission. Abstracts of not more than 500 words should be sent to bernard.vanheusden@uhasselt.be by Thursday **1 May 2014** (together with a short biography of max. 150 words and an indication of the related subtheme(s)).

More information on the conference (e.g. hotel accommodation, registration form, conference dinner,...) will soon be available on the EELF website (www.eelf.info) and the 2014 Conference webpage of Hasselt University.

EELF

The European Environmental Law Forum is a non-profit initiative of environmental law scholars and practitioners from across Europe aiming to support intellectual exchange on the development and implementation of international, European and national environmental law in Europe. EELF is serving as an organizational platform to facilitate the following activities:

- Annual European Environmental Law conference
- Open network and common web-site for professionals, scholars and students of European environmental law
- Environmental law pinboard providing an opportunity for all members to inform about current events, project, vacancies, research interests etc.
- Personal profile pages where you can inform about your expertise, interests, projects and publications

Everyone working, researching or studying in the field of environmental law is welcome to join EELF.

The organising committee

Bernard Vanheusden (UHasselt)

Valérie Cappuyns (KU Leuven, Campus Brussels)

Sandra Rousseau (KU Leuven, Campus Brussels)