

Upcoming lecture

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STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON GREENING EUROPE

FREE LECTURE SERIES

DR. SUVI-TUULI PUHARINEN

EU MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: BUILDING A SAFE HAVEN FOR MARINE LIFE OR GETTING LOST AT THE SEA?

Abstract

European seas host an immense variety of life and play an important role in climate regulation and creating economic opportunities. Yet, it is only during recent decades that the European Union has gradually established a comprehensive legislative approach to protecting the marine environment. The 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) puts forward ambitious legal objectives – achieving good status of the marine environment – and provides integrated marine strategies as the main instrument for steering towards those objectives. To date, the effectiveness of the MSFD has however been rather low, as its implementation has produced strategies and plans on paper but failed to establish strong substantive legal obligations on Member States and individuals for addressing sources of degradation. At the same time, some core pieces of EU environmental legislation – most notably nature protection law – have remained shallow in their application in the marine sphere. The lecture describes the development of EU marine environmental legislation and examines its key strengths and weaknesses in protecting the marine environment.

Bio

Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen is an Assistant Professor of European law, particularly environmental law, at Maastricht University. Her research deals particularly with topics of water and marine environmental protection, biodiversity and corporate sustainability due diligence related to water. She defended her doctoral dissertation titled 'Normative Environmental Quality as a Regulatory Strategy in EU Environmental law: Legal Implications of Water Status Objectives' in June 2024 at the University of Eastern Finland. In her research, she is particularly interested in how the legal systems' structures, limitations and principles deriving from outside the field of environmental law affect the effectiveness of (EU) environmental law in steering towards the achievement of environmental objectives.

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/stm-puharinen>



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