

Strengthening EU Environmental Law: Legal Perspectives on Greening Europe

This lecture will be delivered by

Prof. Dr. Lorenzo Squintani

'Public Participation in the EU and other legal frameworks: towards a more effective public participation practice.'

19 October 2023 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Abstract

Public Participation plays an important role in the development and implementation of European Union (EU) environmental policies, as underlined also under the Green Deal. Yet, in practice it is difficult to organise public participation effectively. In this lecture, we compare three main regulatory approaches to public participation, in light of their ability to implement social sciences insights on effective public participation. First, we will look at the Aarhus Convention, which is binding upon the EU and its Member States. Secondly, we will look at two non-EU related frameworks, the Escazú Agreement and Impact and Benefits Agreement, which could provide inspiration for the modernisation of public participation regulatory frameworks in the EU. We will understand the shortcoming of each regime, when taken individually, potentially explaining why public participation practices have difficulty in fulfilling the envisaged goals. This will serve as a basis for a discussion on potential solutions that could be developed by combining the positive elements of each regime.

Bio

Prof. Lorenzo Squintani is:

- Director of the Wubbo Ockels School for Energy and Climate ([link](#)), (co-)Director of the Energy Law Section ([link](#)) and the Groningen Centre for Energy Law and Sustainability ([link](#)), the Like!Me Living Lab Project ([link](#)), the European Environmental Law Forum ([EELF](#)) and the U4 Environmental Law Network
 - Chief-editor of the Journal for European Environmental and Planning Law ([Brill](#)) and of the European Environmental Law Forum Book Series ([Intersentia](#))
 - Member of the University Council of the University of Groningen ([Science Faction](#))
 - Ambassador for [Open Science](#); [Sustainability](#); and [Open Education](#)
- See for more info his professional web page: <https://www.rug.nl/staff/l.squintani>



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