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# STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON GREENING EUROPE

FREE LECTURE SERIES FOR STUDENTS

## PROF. DR. DOMINIC COPPENS

### THE GLOBAL PLASTIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

### THE DYNAMIC BETWEEN THE EU'S MULTILATERAL AND INTERNAL GREEN AGENDA

#### Abstract

States are negotiating a global treaty to end plastic pollution, with the ambition “to land one of the most significant environmental decisions since the Paris Agreement” by the end of 2024 (Canada’s Minister of Environment, at INC-4 in April 2024). To end plastic pollution, the draft treaty reflects a “life cycle approach” – from extraction to production, design, usage and disposal; combined with ambitious means of implementation for developing countries. The problem is complex, the stakes are high, and the interests are diverse – among states and regions, civil society, and industry.

In parallel, the EU is in the process of ‘greening’ the plastics value chain through internal measures, such as unprecedented packaging and disclosure requirements. These measures will also affect non-EU products and companies.

This lecture will navigate you through the status and dynamics of the global plastic treaty negotiations, with a particular focus on the position of the EU and its Member States and the interplay with the EU’s internal green deal agenda.

#### Bio

Dominic Coppens is Professor of International Economic law at Maastricht University and Senior Managing Associate at Sidley Austin LLP in Brussels. His current research and practice focus on sustainability law, and the intersection between international economic law and environmental law. Dominic is closely involved in the global Plastic Treaty negotiations; and most recently participated as observer in INC-4 in Canada (April 2024) and as expert in the intercessional expert meetings in Bangkok (August 2024). Dominic also collaborates in interdisciplinary research at Maastricht University focusing on transitioning from fossil-fuel based products to biobased products to address the triple planetary crisis.



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