

Strengthening EU Environmental Law: Legal Perspectives on Greening Europe

The lecture will be delivered by

Prof. Dr. Gyula Bándi

**The Rights of Future Generations
and its institutionalization in Hungary**

1 June 2023 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Abstract

We borrow the Earth from future generations – this concept is widely accepted. It is a moral obligation, which might somehow be translated into legal language. But how it should be expressed? Shall we compose a set of rights of future generations or articulate duties for the current generations? Which one is better of what is even more important, which one is more practical? Who is taking care either for the rights or for the duties? The first part of the puzzle is how to formulate them, what should belong to the scope of these rights or duties – from precaution to public participation. The idea of having a guardian for future generations is on the current agenda of the UN. The second part is the practice: exactly 15 years ago the office of the ombudsman for future generations has been established in Hungary, at that time an individual position. Later it has been converted into a deputy position – deputy of the commissioner of fundamental rights, still ombudsman for future generations. Consequently, we could demonstrate how the idea of a guardian (ombudsperson) for future generations might work, serving as an example how to come closer to a practical implementation of the idea.

Bio

Professor (also Jean Monnet professor) of environmental law at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University (see: <https://jak.ppke.hu/en/teaching/faculty-members-and-researchers/bandi-gyula-96fe7>), author of more than 300 publications in this field. Ombudsman for future generations of Hungary for the term 2017-2023, reelected by the Parliament for a next round (2023-2029) (see: <https://www.ajbh.hu/en/web/ajbh-en/dr.-gyula-bandi>)



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