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STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON GREENING EUROPE

FREE LECTURE SERIES

NATHALIE HERVÉ- FOURNEREAU

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN WATER LAW: TOWARDS A EUROPEAN BLUE DEAL?

Abstract

Almost 5 decades after the first UN Water Conference held in 1977, the crucial issue of water seems to be back on the agenda. The UN Water Agenda 2023 brings together various voluntary commitments from stakeholders, including those of the EU. Moreover, the European Green Deal is presented as a “unique opportunity... to secure a water-resilient future”. However, in 2023, the European Economic and Social Committee called for a European Blue Pact. A recent European Citizens' Initiative for an Intelligent and Resilient Water Europe is part of this dynamic. The availability of water in sufficient quality and quantity, not to mention our water footprint, is clearly at stake. What's more, climate change is exacerbating episodes of water stress and the intensity of floods, which are major sources of insecurity. These emergencies challenge the way we use and share water resources, including in Europe. Despite the EU's extensive legal framework on water, the question of new hierarchies for the water needs of people and natural entities must be asked, without harming or excluding anyone.

Bio

Nathalie Hervé-Fournereau, Western Institute of Law and Europe (IODE) Mixed Research Unit CNRS-Rennes University. Her research focuses on European environmental law, in particular the pluralism of modes of regulation and the integration of environmental requirements into European policies. I analyse the dynamics of the transformation of European environmental law in the light of innovative expressions of democracy and justice. Involved in interdisciplinary research, I also study the interactions between law and scientific knowledge in the field of water and biodiversity and examine the migration into law of hybrid concepts such as ecosystem services, nature-based solutions and planetary limits. I am a member of the French Society for Environmental Law (vice-president 2014-2020), the European Association of Environmental Lawyers (Avosetta Group) and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (co-chair of the research committee 2014-2017).



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