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# STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON GREENING EUROPE

FREE LECTURE SERIES

PROF DR MARTIN FÜHR AND  
DR JULIAN SCHENTEN

FAKE IT 'TILL YOU MAKE IT:  
REGULATORY CONTROL OF CHEMICAL RISKS  
IN REACH

## Abstract

Over the last century, countries of the Western world have transformed into 'chemical societies'. And they will pay the price for a long time to come: The overshoot planetary boundary for "novel entities" (i.e. man-made substances) illustrates how the chemical pollution crisis creates a societal task just as big and demanding as the climate and biodiversity crises. Based on research published in The Lancet, the World Bank reports that in 2019 exposure to lead alone caused the premature deaths of more than 5.5 million people globally. At the same time, massive amounts of human biomonitoring data on harmful chemicals in the European population show that our bodies are dangerously polluted, and European citizens are deeply concerned about the impact substances present in everyday products can have on their health and the environment. This lecture will take a close look at the EU industrial chemicals regulation REACH – the bloc's regulatory response to chemical risks and threats. Attendees will gain insights into the key mechanisms of REACH, the chances they create and implementation shortcomings.

## Bio

- Martin Führ, Professor of Public Law, Legal Theory and Comparative Law at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (h\_da); where he heads the interdisciplinary research group sofia and the Master's programme "Risk Assessment and Sustainability Management" (RASUM). From 2008 to 2015, he was a member of the Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Helsinki.  
<https://www.sofia-darmstadt.de/personen/mitarbeiter>
- Julian Schenten, Senior Law and Policy Advisor at ClientEarth  
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28 NOVEMBER 2024  
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