

Finance out of control

Thursday 24 October at 09h00 – UCM Room 0.014 (Lecture Hall)

Sustainable finance has gone from niche to mainstream within a decade. More than that, it has become a hype where box ticking and greenwashing seem to obscure the real question: how can finance support the sustainability transition? In my keynote I will discuss this development and the current state of EU legislation on sustainable finance and reporting and how this is brought into practice in transition plans and climate modelling. This way I will show that whereas private financial institutions can and should do more, public finance needs to step up its efforts as well. Both governments (fiscal) and central banks (supervision and monetary policy) need to increase their efforts to effectively limit climate change and reverse the current negative developments around biodiversity loss. Here the largest challenge is to bring enough finance to the table for the necessary investments in the Global South.

Rens van Tilburg is Member of the Sustainable Finance Lab of which he was also the Executive Director from 2011 until June 2024 at Utrecht University.

Before Rens has worked as a strategic advisor to the Dutch government on innovation policy and in the European and Dutch parliament on sustainability and the economy.