

Workshop

The Public as User and Creator of Environmental Information

Copenhagen, Monday 22 October 2018, 13.00-16.45,

On the premises of the European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, Copenhagen, Denmark

Organized by: *Lorenzo Squintani* (University of Groningen), *Helle Tegner Anker* (University of Copenhagen), and *Moritz Reese* (Helmholtz Centre For Environmental Research)

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

In order to strengthen the working relationship between Academia and the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the field of environmental protection, the **European Environmental Law Forum (EELF)** organizes a workshop focusing on the relationship between environmental information and the general public.

Information on the status of the environment plays a central role under EU Environmental Law. The so-called 'first pillar' of the Aarhus Convention is a prerequisite for environmental democracy and environmental protection. When looked at from the perspective of the public, the public can be both *user* and *creator* of environmental information. Both aspects raise legal questions.

Regarding the generation of environmental information, new technologies have paved the way for the public to create data on the status of the environment. For example, smart phones can be used to monitor air quality and apps provide insights into what ecosystem services nature reserves deliver to society. From a legal perspective, questions can be raised about the linkage between these new possibilities and fundamental rights.

Regarding information dissemination to the public, the amount of environmental data available to the public is increasing constantly. For example, both at EU and national level regulatory impact assessments are used more and more to inform the public about the background of policy making. Digital means of dissemination of information, such as interactive maps, also provide more and more information to the public. This raises legal questions on, for example, legal certainty and equity.

In sum, the intensification of the mutual relationship between the public and environmental information raises questions on how law can facilitate and regulate the process of creating and disseminating environmental information so as to contribute to environmental democracy. This workshop aims to initiate a more intensive debate on these issues.

13.00 - 13.30 Registration

13.30 – Introduction (total of 15-20 minutes)

Hans BRUYNINCKX – Welcome by Executive Director EEA

Helle Tegner ANKER – Welcome from EELF

Lorenzo SQUINTANI – Introduction: The right to information

EEA Official to be announced – (Co-)creation of data by means of ICT services (15 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussions)

Kars DE GRAAF & Gerrit VAN DER VEEN – The legal dimension of the Dutch Digital System on the Living Environment (15 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussions)

15.00 - 15.30 Pause

Alexandra ARAGÃO – The human right dimension of valuating cultural ecosystem services (15 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussions)

Lorenzo SQUINTANI – Equal opportunities in environmental democracy: A call for equity based information creation and dissemination (15 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussions)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

16.45 Closure

For enrolment and info: email l.squintani@rug.nl There are limited places available which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Enrollment is open also to non-EELF members. Please spread this announcement around in your own networks. For information and enrollment please contact Lorenzo Squintani, at l.squintani@rug.nl by the **26 of September**.

