

Report - 17th POLLEN / WIRE Workshop

Venue: UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles

Date: 5th-6th September 2024

The 17th WIRE/POLLEN workshop on EU Environmental Policy and Law was held in Brussels on 5th and 6th September 2024, bringing together academics, policy officers, and legal professionals to discuss pressing environmental challenges and the EU's evolving role in addressing them. This year's event, chaired by **Prof. Amandine Orsini**, featured a series of insightful presentations and discussions centered on environmental governance, sustainable development, and legal frameworks at both European and global levels. The event was funded by FNRS and the EU Global Green Jean Monnet chair.

Day 1: Thursday, 5th September 2024

On the first day, **Prof. Amandine Orsini** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) opened the workshop by welcoming participants and outlining the key themes of the event: the intersection of environmental policy, law, and governance in Europe. The presentations by the speakers delved into the evolving concept of environmental protection as a human right, particularly within the European context, the EU's evolving climate policies and their impacts on global climate governance the human rights dimensions of climate-induced displacement.

The presentations also included recent developments in the EU's Sustainable Batteries Regulation, the EU and nuclear waste policy and the EU's strategies for international ocean governance. The impact of agricultural practices on biodiversity was also discussed on the first day, with an analysis of EU agricultural policies and the discussion of the potential for biodiversity recovery through habitat restoration and nature-based solutions. The day concluded with an overview of the EU's latest policies on hazardous chemicals, followed by A review on «One Health» policies and its framings by international institutions.

Day 2: Friday, 6th September 2024

The day started with presentations on how environmental considerations are shaping EU trade law, focusing on the legal frameworks that reconcile environmental protection with trade objectives. The role of green trade agreements and carbon border adjustment mechanisms were also discussed. There were also presentations on recent EU efforts to resolve environmental conflicts, and on how EU member states are implementing Renewable Energy Communities (RECs), fostering local and decentralized energy production. The second to last presentation focused on the EU's increasing involvement in Arctic governance, emphasizing the region's critical role in global climate change and the challenges of balancing ecological concerns with economic interests. The final session focused on the increasing role of youth in shaping EU environmental policy, emphasizing activism, education, and youth engagement in policymaking processes.

Prof. Orsini closed the workshop with a summary of the key takeaways and future directions for EU environmental policy and law. The workshop fostered robust discussions and exchanges among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, paving the way for continued dialogue on these critical issues and for the edition of a volume on these issues with Routledge. This volume will provide valuable insights into the future of EU environmental governance, underscoring the need for strong legal frameworks, public participation, and international cooperation in addressing environmental challenges.