

Strengthening EU Environmental Law: Legal Perspectives on Greening Europe

This lecture will be delivered by
Prof. Marjan Peeters

**To fall in love with
the EU Emissions Trading instrument?**
*Opportunities and challenges of this core pillar
of EU climate law*

14 March 2024 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM CET

Abstract

In the [hearing](#) for the European Parliament as designate commissioner, Wopke Hoekstra confessed to be in love with the EU greenhouse gas emissions trading instrument. He conveyed the view that it is the “crown jewel” and “working horse” of EU climate policies and law. While indeed economic theory paved the way for a positive appreciation of this market-based regulatory instrument, legal research has identified opportunities but also challenges. This lecture will introduce the surprisingly simple theoretical design of the instrument, and the evolution and complexities of applying it in EU law, including the impressive number of court procedures. Focal points will be the contribution to climate neutrality by the gradual lowering of the allowed emissions, the increased obligation of emitters to pay and the spending of revenues by governments, and the expansion of the instrument to other emitters than industries. The lecture will question whether we can know whether emissions are reported trustworthily, and calls for more civil society attention for the instrument.

Bio

Marjan Peeters is Professor of Environmental Policy and Law at Maastricht University. She is member of the [GreenDealnet](#) project and she coordinates this lecture series [Strengthening EU Environmental Law](#). She published one of the first legal articles on emissions trading in Europe, in 1993: [Towards a European system of tradable pollution permits?](#). See for more information about her academic activities: [Prof Dr Marjan Peeters - Maastricht University](#)



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We hope to see you on 14 March 2024!