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Climate Change Law and Policy

Objective

This course explores legal responses to climate change and sheds light on the underlying policy considerations. It aims to provide an overview and understanding of the key legal mechanisms related to climate change and to explore linkages/tensions between international, regional (European) and national regulation.

Contents

The past decade has witnessed important developments in the field of climate policy. Legal norms related to climate change have also increased significantly internationally, in the European Union and in many national legal systems. The course will provide an overview of the key features of the international climate change regime and evolution of climate law and policy in the European Union. Examples from various national legal systems will also be discussed. The course will also examine more closely some of the most advanced examples of international and European climate law and policy, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Study Mode

Compulsory lectures (10 hours), after which participants will be required to submit a learning diary (approx. 10 pages). Participants will also be required to write and present a short paper (10-15 pages) building on topics discussed during the lectures.

Grading

0–5

Credits

5 Cp

Lectures (10 hrs)

I Introduction to Climate Change Law and Policy

- Climate science and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- The ethics and politics of climate change
- Climate change mitigation: GHG emissions and possible mitigation policies
- Climate change law as an emergent legal discipline

II The UN Climate Change Regime

- Evolution of the UN climate regime: the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Marrakesh Accords, Copenhagen Accord, Cancun Agreements and the ongoing long-term negotiations
- Key principles, concepts and issues

III EU Climate Law

- The EU's goal of playing a global leadership role in the battle against climate change
- The 20-20-20 by 2020 target and the Climate and Energy Package

- The EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the Linking Directive and the inclusion of aviation emissions in the EU ETS

Seminars (10 hours)

Participants are required to write and present a seminar paper (10-15 pages) on an agreed topic that builds on the issues discussed during the lectures.

Possible topics for the seminar paper:

- Mitigation and technology
 1. Internationally negotiated emission targets (top down) or national climate policies (bottom up)?
 2. Should the distinction between Annex I and non-Annex I countries be modified?
 3. Options for setting a price for greenhouse gas emissions
 4. The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 5. International emissions trading and green investment schemes
 6. REDD+
 7. Changes in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme for 2013-2020
 8. Aviation Emissions in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme
 9. The EU's Renewables Directive: national targets for renewable energy
 10. The EU's Renewables Directive: sustainability criteria for biofuels
 11. International cooperation on low-carbon technologies
- Adaptation and finance
 12. Climate change adaptation in Least Developed Countries
 13. Climate change adaptation and the EU
 14. Finland's national strategy for climate change adaptation
 15. How to generate climate finance for developing countries?
 16. The Green Climate Fund
 17. Climate finance and the EU
- International law and climate change
 18. The Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee
 19. The role of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)
 20. Key sticking points in the UN climate change negotiations
 21. The Kyoto Protocol or a new international climate treaty?
 22. Developing countries in the UN climate change negotiations
 23. Role of non-state actors in international climate change governance