

## International and European Environmental Law (B001699)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Contact hrs**

45.0h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

self-reliant study activities  
lecture

10.0h  
35.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023**

Cliquet, An

RE22

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023**

Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Laws)

**crdts**

**offering**

6

A

Master of Laws in Laws

6

A

Master of Laws in European Union Law

6

A

Master of Laws in International and European Law

6

A

Master of Laws in International Business Law

6

A

Exchange Programme in Law

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

International environmental law, European environmental law, international environmental policy, pollution, climate change, sustainable development

**Position of the course**

To give students knowledge and insight in the complexity of international and European environmental law, more specifically towards global environmental and sustainability problems, the sources and evolution of international and European environmental law, the international organisations involved, the general principles of the international protection of the environment, the relationship with human rights law, environmental liability and the specific rules for air pollution, the protection of freshwater and oceans and seas, waste and climate change.

**Contents**

A first part is a general introduction on international and European environmental law. An overview is given of international and regional organisations relevant for the development of international and European environmental law; the sources of international and European environmental law (including treaties, decisions and resolutions of international governmental environmental organisations, European Union environmental law, soft law, case law); the principles of international and European environmental law (e.g. the principles of prevention, the precautionary principle, the principle of sustainable development...); the relationship between environmental law and human rights and environmental liability.

A second part concentrates on specific international and European rules in a thematic context: protection against pollution of rivers and of seas and oceans, transboundary air pollution air, protection of the ozone layer, transport of dangerous wastes and climate change. There will be a limited number of guest lectures on specific topics.

Several discussion classes are organised, in which several sustainability and environmental problems are discussed. On each theme the students write a short opinion.

Students have to write a paper on a specific issue of international or European environmental law, of their own choice.

### **Initial competences**

- To have basic knowledge of public international law, EU law and institutions of the EU.
- To be able to analyse legal texts and sources.
- To have the attitude to be willing to develop a critical and scientific attitude.

### **Final competences**

- 1 To have insight into international and European environmental law and its developments.
- 2 To be able to analyse and value legal texts and sources in the field of international and European environmental law.
- 3 To be able to apply the involved rules and regulations to specific problems.
- 4 To give a critical reflection and a scientific attitude.
- 5 To be able to analyse environmental and sustainability problems and to develop an independent vision towards topics of international and European environmental law.
- 6 To be able to argue potential solutions for a given environmental and sustainability problem.
- 7 To analyse an international or European environmental topic or case law.
- 8 To be aware of the role of international and European environmental law in achieving sustainability goals.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, Self-reliant study activities

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures, potentially combined with a number of guest speakers on specific topics.  
For a limited part of the course, pre-recorded presentations will be available.  
For the thematic discussions, each student writes a short opinion about each discussed issue.  
Student also have to write a paper about a specific topic.

### **Learning materials and price**

- Cliquet, A., International and European environmental law. Handouts of the powerpoint presentations, 2022 (available on Ufora, free of charge).
- Cliquet, A., Introduction to international and European environmental law, Ghent University, 2022 (short course book, available on Ufora, free of charge).
- Handouts of the presentations of guest speakers (available on Ufora, free of charge).

### **References**

- Koivurova T, Introduction to international environmental law, Routledge, 2013.
- Boyle A & Redgwell C, Birnie, Boyle, and Redgwell's International Law and the Environment, Fourth Edition, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Peeters M and Elia Antonio M (eds.), EU Environmental Law Research Handbook, Edward Elgar, 2020.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

- Answering questions of the students through e-mail or otherwise

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written examination with open questions

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written examination with open questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam. One or more questions on international environmental law and one or more questions on European environmental law. The questions are open and are situated between knowledge and insight, meaning that the aim is not only reproducing knowledge.

There is an evaluation of the paper and of the written opinions on the discussion topics.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Exam: 40%. Paper: 35%. Written opinions about discussion topics & participation: 25%

Retake assignment: reworking the case-note (or submit an assignment if this had not been done)

Students who do not participate in all evaluations will be declared as unsuccessful for this course. In concrete terms, this means that if the final score is nevertheless a figure of ten or more out of twenty, the final score will be reduced to a figure of 7/20.

**Facilities for Working Students**

Working students that cannot attend classes, do not have to write opinions on the discussion topics. Evaluation is 40% for the exam and 60% for the paper.