



Annual Report 2017

1. Annual Conference – Oxford – 22 & 23 September 2017

The 2017 Conference of the Forum was held in Oxford on 22 and 23 September 2017 on the topic of „Climate change and the judiciary”

The program, the questionnaire, the national and general reports, the presentations and other relevant documentation can be found on our website:
<http://www.eufje.org/index.php/en/conferences/oxford-2017>

DG Environment of the European Commission was able to refund the travel costs for one judge per EU Member State participating in the Conference.

2. EU Environmental Enforcement Networks Conference, 20 & 21 September 2017

Building on the success of last year’s first ever joint networks conference in Utrecht EU networks have joined forces again to organise a conference targeting all aspects of the environmental compliance chain. It is this year a joined initiative of the Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of EU Environmental Law (IMPEL), the EU Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) and the Network of police officers focusing on tackling environmental crime (ENVICrimeNet). EUFJE was involved in the preparation of the Conference (Meeting in London on 13 February 2017) and the Conference itself. The programme focused on strengthening the compliance chain in the thematic areas of waste and nature / wildlife protection. The conference dedicated much time to case studies and practical examples on the following topics: Hunting tourism & wildlife trafficking; Innovative approaches in detection & prosecution of illegal waste activities; Stakeholder perspectives – views from regulated industry, hunters and NGOs.

Secrétariat – Secretariat :

<http://www.eufje.org>

3. Cooperation with the “European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment” (ENPE)

ENPE (see: <https://www.environmentalprosecutors.eu/>) with the support of the EU LIFE programme, is undertaking a 5 year project to develop its network and to undertake a programme of support for the operative work of prosecutors. It is a multi-partner project that will improve compliance with EU Environmental Law by addressing uneven and incomplete implementation across Member States through improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of prosecutors and judges in combating environmental crime. The project is led by the England-based Environment Agency (EA) in Bristol and involves a consortium of 4 other partners: the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE); the Irish EPA; the Office for Serious Fraud and Environmental Crime of the National Public Prosecutor’s Office (FP, Netherlands) and the National Environmental Crimes Unit at the Swedish Prosecution Authority (REMA).

The working groups will run for three years, presenting interim and final findings at the ENPE Annual conferences as they move forward.

Working Group 1 – Wildlife addresses non-compliance of wildlife laws such as the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EEC).

Working Group 2 - Waste focus on major causes of non-compliance with the Waste Shipment Regulation (1013/2006).

Working Group 3 – Chemicals/Air Pollution looks at non-compliance with industrial emissions and major industrial hazard laws with focus on the main EU legislation applicable (Seveso III Directive).

Working Group 4 – Sanctioning, Prosecution & Judicial Practice looks at ongoing practical issues around enforcement of the Environmental Crime Directive, and how best to tackle these through capacity building and other means. This WG is chaired by EUFJE in the person of Dr. Carole Billiet.

4. EU - Support for Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of Environmental Law

EUFJE was participating in the meeting of the *Steering Committee* (Brussels, 30 June 2017) of the by DG Environment of the EC sponsored project “Support for Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of Environmental Law” that is executed from 2013 on by the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Trier. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/training_package.htm

In 2017 two workshops have been held on “How to handle Court Proceedings invoking non-compliance with EU Water Law” in Trier, on 22-24 February 2017, and on 5-7 April 2017 at the Supreme Administrative Court, Warsaw. Also two workshops on “EU Nature Legislation – Site Protection under the Habitats and Birds Directives” were organised on 18-20 September

2017 at the National Institute of Justice in Sofia and on 4-6 October 2017 at the ERA Congress Centre in Trier.

5. UNECE - Aarhus Convention – Task Force on Access to Justice

EUFJE attended the Tenth Meeting of the TF Access to Justice of the Aarhus Convention (Geneva, 27-28 February 2017). EUFJE is involved in the running activities of the Task Force: analytical studies on different aspects of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, developing best practices, further development of the database on Aarhus case law, preparation of training workshops....

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/tfaj10.html#/>

6. UNEP/IUCN/GJIE

The Charter of the *Global Judicial Institute for the Environment* has been finalised during 2016. EUFJE followed the activities related to its further development EUFJE attended by teleconference in the Meeting of the Steering Committee (Brasilia, 10 February 2017).

7. Declarations of support

EUFJE signed declaration of support of the *SEO/Bird Life* and *Guardia Civil* application for a project to minimize the incidence of environmental crimes and their impact on priority bird species.

8. Other activities

- DG Environment, European Commission, Stakeholder Conference on Environmental Compliance Assurance, Brussels, 31 January 2017
- Cooperation with IMPEL, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, and INECE, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement.
- Cooperation with the EJTN – European Judicial Training Network Contact Point meeting - EU Pilot Project on European Judicial Training – LOT 4 – Brussels – 27 March 2017
- Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (Bern SFPs Network) and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), Sliema (Malta), 22 and 23 June 2017

6. Running business

This comprises 2 meetings of the board (Paris 22 April, Oxford 22 September 2017), updating the website, informing members and running the secretariat.