



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Annual Report 2016

1. Annual Conference – Bucharest – 18-19 November 2016

The 2016 Conference of the Forum was held in Bucharest (Romania) on 18 and 19 November 2016 on the topic on “*Human Rights and the Enforcement of Environmental Law*”. It was hosted by the *Tribunalul Bucuresti*. 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/bucharest-2016>

DG Environment of the European Commission was able to refund the travel costs for one judge per EU Member State participating in the Conference. In addition the European Commission funded also the participation of one judge from each of the candidate countries and the potential candidates.

2. EU Environmental Enforcement Networks Conference, 12-13 May 2016, Utrecht, The Netherlands

The 4 EU Environmental Law Networks (IMPEL, ENPE, EUFJE, EnviCrimeNet) have for the first time organized a joint conference to improve environmental enforcement & compliance in Europe. EUFJE was involved in the preparation of the conference and has taken care of various presentations during the conference.

See for the program: <http://www.complianceconference.eu/>

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

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<http://www.eufje.org>

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 Partnership Agreement relating to the participation of EUFJE in the project has been signed in Brussels on 18 January 2016.

The working groups have started work on assembling their teams and have their first meetings in December 2016. They will run for three years, presenting interim and final findings at the ENPE Annual conferences as they move forward.

The LIFE-ENPE Project Board met on 18 January 2016 (in Brussels), on 14 March (by teleconference), on 28 April 2016 (by teleconference), on 14 July 2016 (in Brussels), on 14 October 2016 (in Brussels). EUFJE was represented at all those meetings.

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, 6 June 2016) 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 2016 different workshops have been held on "How to enforce EU legislation on biodiversity and wildlife trafficking" (24-26 February 2016, ERA, Trier/20-22 April 2016, Centro de Estudios Jurídicos, Ministerio de Justicia, Madrid, Spain) as well as on "How to handle Court Proceedings invoking non-compliance with EU Waste Law" (21-23 September 2016, Escuela Judicial, Barcelona, Spain/17-19 October 2016, ERA, Trier, Germany/30 November–2 December 2016, Hellenic School of Judges, Thessaloniki, Greece).

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

EUFJE attended the Ninth Meeting of the TF Access to Justice of the Aarhus Convention (Geneva, 13-15 June 2016). 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/tfaj9.html#/>

6. UNEP/IUCN/GJIE

EUFJE was represented during the “2016 World Environmental Law Congress” at the Supreme Court of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil , 27-29 April 2016, organised by IUCN, in collaboration with UNEP: <http://welcongress.org/>

At the end of the Conference a “World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law” was presented: <http://welcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Draft-World-Declaration-on-the-Environmental-Rule-of-Law-2016.pdf>

At the same event the *Global Judicial Institute for the Environment* was established and its Charter adopted.

7. Declarations of support

EUFJE signed a letter of intent with *Justice and Environment* and *Client Earth* in the framework of a Life Environmental Governance and Information application concerning Awareness raising and training on access to justice in the field of the environment and a 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

- 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. A meeting was held in Brussels on September 1st 2016 to evaluate the Utrecht Conference and to explore future co-operation. EUFJE was represented at the IMPEL General Assembly Meeting in Bratislava on 1-2 December 2016
- Participation in the ENEC (European Network Against Environmental Crime) Workshop against environmental crime on habitat destruction (Edinburgh, 26 February 2016)
- Cooperation with the EJTN – European Judicial Training Network Contact Point meeting - EU Pilot Project on European Judicial Training – LOT 4 – Brussels - 18 March 2016
- Participation in the EFFACE Conference, Brussels, 17-18 February 2016, Combatting Environmental Crime. Priorities and Opportunities for further EU Action
- Participation in the 11th International Association for Court Administration (IACA) Conference 18-20 May 2016, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Participation in the IUCNAEL Colloquium 2016 "The Environment in Court", Oslo, Norway, 20-24 June 2016

- Follow up of the Mediterranean Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds, adopted at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNEP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) - Cairo (Egypt), 12-15 July 2016
- Participation in the EELF Conference “Procedural environmental rights: Principle X of the Rio Declaration in theory and practice”, in Wroclaw, Poland, 16 September 2016
- Participation in the DG Justice and Consumers Workshop “Contribution of the Environmental Crime Directive to the fight against organised environmental crime” (Brussels, 20 October 2016)

6. Running business

This comprises 2 meetings of the board (Paris 19 March, Bucharest 18 November), updating the website, informing members and running the secretariat.