

As part of the parallel events taking place during the 1st European Forum of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, which will be held on 3-4 June 2026 at the Council of Europe, the University of Strasbourg is organising a round table echoing the discussions of the forum.

Wednesday 3 June 2026, 6.00–7.30 pm: Round table discussion “Environmental human rights defenders and environmental and climate litigation” (in English)

The round table will provide an opportunity to hear the perspectives of three experts on the challenges of environmental and climate litigation and the risks faced by those who champion the environmental cause.

It will be moderated by Ms Peggy DUCOULOMBIER, Professor of Public Law at the University of Strasbourg, and will focus on three main questions:

Is there a definition of the category of Environmental Human Rights Defenders?

What are the threats faced by Environmental Human Rights Defenders and the available means of protection?

How to facilitate access to Justice for Environmental Human Rights Defenders and the cause they defend?

Speakers:

- Ms Astrid PUENTES RIAÑO, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- Ms Hélène TIGROUDJA, Professor of international human rights law and international law at the University of Aix-Marseille, Vice-Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Committee
- Mr François ZIND, Lawyer specialising in environmental law, Representative of the Alsace Nature association

Venue: Cavaillès Amphitheatre, Le Patio, 22 rue René Descartes, Strasbourg