



Workshop

Environment, Human Rights and Business: A framework for addressing environmental protection challenges

Speakers / Panellists

27 April 2021



Christophe POIREL

Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Director of Human Rights of the Council of Europe since July 2018. Responsible for the departments in charge of supervising the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, social rights and the implementation of the European Social Charter, intergovernmental co-operation in the fields of human rights and Bioethics as well as Council of Europe's activities concerning the independence and functioning of judicial systems.

Previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe between 2010 and 2018, with particular responsibility for political and human rights issues, having held various positions in the human rights field since 1989.



Sigrid JACOBY

Representative of the German Federal Government for Matters Relating to Human Rights

Dr. Sigrid JACOBY has been the Representative for Human Rights of the German Federal Government since January 1, 2021. After studying law in Trier, she began her career as a public prosecutor and later as a judge. Her interest in international affairs led her to the Federal Ministry of Justice in 2000, where she worked inter alia in the area of international criminal law. From 2010 to 2013 she headed the Legal Policy Unit at the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union, and from 2013 the EU Office at the Federal Ministry of Justice.



Kristine LĪCIS

Representative of Latvia before the European Court of Human Rights

Ms Kristine LĪCIS joined the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994. Since then she has held various positions, including Deputy Permanent Representative of Latvia before the UN in Geneva and in New York. Since 2012, she is the Government Agent of Latvia before the ECHR. Since 2019, she is also the Legal Adviser at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the Council of Europe, she is the Latvian representative in the CDDH. She was a member of the CDDH Bureau in 2016-2019, and since 2020 she is the Vice-Chair of the CDDH and appointed to chair the CDDH-ENV.



Surya DEVA

Associate Professor at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong / Vice Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Surya DEVA is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, and the current Vice Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Prof Deva's primary research interests lie in Business and Human Rights, India-China Constitutional Law, and Sustainable Development. He has published extensively in these areas. Prof Deva is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal, and sits on the Editorial/Advisory Board of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, the Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law, the Indian Law Review, and the Australian Journal of Human Rights.



Chiara MACCHI

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Researcher at Wageningen University & Research

Dr Chiara MACCHI is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Researcher at Wageningen University & Research – Law Group with a research project on Business and Human Rights in the policies of the European Union. She is an associate member of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project and a member of the European Law Institute's project Business and Human Rights: Access to Justice and Effective Remedies. She is co-chair of the Business and Human Rights working group of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research. She has authored publications on the right to water, climate due diligence, extraterritorial human rights obligations, human rights due diligence legislation, and the human rights responsibilities of investors. She is an assistant editor of Transnational Environmental Law. She was previously a post-doctoral researcher in International Law at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies. She conducts consultancies for governments, NGOs, companies, trade unions and lawyers on business and human rights-related issues.



Carlos LOPEZ

Senior Legal Advisor at the International Commission of Jurists

Carlos LOPEZ is a graduate from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva, where he did his PhD and Master's degree on international law. He currently works at the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva) as a Senior Legal Advisor, leading on the work of the ICJ on business and human rights. He has worked before in the United Nations human rights office, researcher at the Graduate Institute and several non-governmental organisations. His current research focusses on access to justice and effective remedy, climate change and human rights due diligence, and legal liability in supply chains.



Nicola WENZEL

German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

Nicola Wenzel is Head of the Human Rights Office at the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and Government Agent before the ECtHR. She leads the Ministry's Business and Human Rights team and is the CDDH Rapporteur on Human Rights and Business. Her specialisation in international human rights law go back to her work as research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for International and Comparative Public Law in Heidelberg. From her previous work as head of the Ministry's Alternative Dispute Resolution unit she brings an ADR perspective on access to remedies in human rights matters.



Ulla GLAESSER

European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

Prof. Dr. Ulla GLAESSER, LL.M. (UC Berkeley) is Professor of Mediation, Conflict Management and Procedural Theory, Co-Director of the Institute for Conflict Management and academic director of the postgraduate, interdisciplinary Master's Program on Mediation and Conflict Management at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)/Germany. She has published broadly on mediation methodology as well as on the legal framework of mediation and other ADR procedures in Germany and Europe. She is the editor of two Publication Series on Mediation and Conflict Management and a commentary on the German Mediation Act. One focus of her current research is the design of grievance mechanisms in the field of Business and Human Rights.

In addition to her academic work, Ulla GLAESSER practices as a mediator and facilitator.



Margreet VRIELING

Associate Director at Fair Wear Foundation

Margreet VRIELING has a background in international cooperation with a focus on labour rights and the social aspects of sustainability.

Before joining Fair Wear Foundation in 2010, she worked at the international department of a trade union for almost a decade, taking part in ILO conferences in the delegation of the Netherlands as well as taking part in the Committee of Experts of Fair Wear Foundation.

Moving to Fair Wear Foundation meant shifting her focus from global policies and decent work, to working directly with clothing companies and factories on issues of corporate social responsibility and improving conditions on the factory floor. Initially, Margreet was responsible for FWF's work in Bangladesh and Turkey. Since 2013 Margreet has been heading the verification team. She enjoys guiding brands in taking responsibility to monitor their supply chain, solving problems of workers related to their rights and is keen on discussing the changes necessary in the sector to remediate the challenging problems and improve the lives of garment workers. Since 2016 she is Associate director at Fair Wear Foundation.



Richard MEERAN

Head of the International Department at Leigh Day

Richard MEERAN is the Head of the International Department at Leigh Day where he has been a partner for over 25 years. He pioneered the firm's ground-breaking cases against UK-domiciled multinationals and has published widely on the topic. He has appeared on numerous occasions as a legal expert at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and at the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working group on Transnational Corporations. He was a member of the drafting team of the Hague Rules on Business and Human Rights Arbitration.



Maddalena NEGLIA

Head of the Globalisation and Human Rights Desk, FIDH

Maddalena NEGLIA is the director of the Globalisation and Human Rights desk since 2016, where she coordinates the Federation's activities on documenting corporate related human rights abuses, strengthening the International and European regulatory framework on corporate accountability and on improving access to justice for victims.

Prior to join FIDH Maddalena was postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Ethics and Law of the University College of London, and worked at Fairfood International in Amsterdam, and at Latham and Watkins LLP in Milan. Maddalena has published several articles on business and human rights in academic journals and holds a Ph.D. in Public Law.



Diego QUIROZ

Policy & International Officer, Scottish Human Right Commission (SHRC)

Diego leads on domestic policy and the international engagement of SHRC with the UN and other human rights mechanisms. He leads SHRC work on Business & Human Rights and Climate Change. Diego has also worked as an independent expert for the European Commission's TAIEX in a number of countries, including Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Azerbaijan. Before joining SHRC, he held a lectureship in Law at the Robert Gordon University, Scotland. Diego has published widely on human rights, including on technology; climate change; children; asylum; and business & human rights. His academic research led him to briefly work with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights at Harvard University in 2006. After obtaining his LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Lund University & RWI in Sweden, he worked as a legal intern with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Legal Office in Costa Rica. Diego is a qualified lawyer in Colombia and worked as an in-house lawyer for a financial institution.



Daniel KLEIN

Founding Partner of KleinCarazo International and advisor to the UN Climate Change Secretariat

Daniel KLEIN is an international lawyer and climate change expert with work experience across different areas of environmental and international law. From 2008 to 2019, he supported the multilateral negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany, including on the Paris Agreement. Prior to that, he worked for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and at the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.

He is co-founder of the sustainability innovation platform [Quantum Leap](#) and partner of [Klein Carazo International Lawyers and Consultants](#) and currently works as an independent advisor to the UNFCCC. Daniel studied law at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and Tulane Law School, U.S.A. and holds a Ph.D. and a Master (LL.M.) in International and Comparative Law. Among other publications, he is co-editor and co-author of '[The Paris Agreement – Analysis and Commentary](#)' (OUP 2017).



Bettina RECHENBERG

Director General of division "Sustainable Production and Products, Waste management" at the German Environment Agency

Dr. Bettina RECHENBERG works as Director General of division "Sustainable Production and Products, Waste management" at the German Environment Agency (*Umweltbundesamt*). She studied biology and has worked at the *Umweltbundesamt* since 1992 gaining experiences in chemical safety, water protection, sustainable production, resource conservation and material cycles. She is dealing with the analysis of environmental effects linked to raw material extraction, industrial production, consumption and waste management and is searching for sustainable and practicable solutions.



Thorsten PINKEPANK

Director Corporate Sustainability Relations

Thorsten PINKEPANK is Director Corporate Sustainability Relations at BASF. After completing his education in business administration and studying political science, mass-communication and psychology, he helped in establishing a political and business consulting institute. There he developed and moderated projects on sustainability issues on national and local levels for business and politics. In 2002, he moved to BASF and has held various positions in political communications. He then headed the HR advocacy and communications unit before taking over responsibility for BASF's Corporate Sustainability Relations.

From 2012 – 2017 he was a member of the GRI Stakeholder Council. He is Chair of the German Global Compact Network (DGCN), member of the Board of CSR Europe and of econsense –Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business e.V. He is also member of the Expert Network of the UN Global Compact.



Laura CURTZE

Global Compact Network Germany, Director Business and Human Rights

Laura Curtze is Director for Business and Human Rights at Global Compact Network Germany (GCNG). The German Network is among the oldest and largest Local Networks of the UN Global Compact, with more than 600 participants from business, civil society, public sector and academia. GCNG has been very active in raising awareness of and supporting companies to implement the UNGPs since their publication in 2011. In her role, Laura is responsible for coordinating these activities and leads on GCNG's diverse programmes, initiatives and engagements in the field of business and human rights. She has previously worked as a consultant, advising multinational corporations, financial institutions and multi-stakeholder initiatives on various issues relating to labour and human rights due diligence.



Hermann E. OTT

Head, ClientEarth Germany Office

Prof. Dr. Hermann E. OTT is founder and Managing Director of the Germany Office for ClientEarth. He holds a law degree and a PhD in international environmental law from the Free University of Berlin and is a professor for 'Global Sustainability Strategies and Governance' at the University of Sustainable Development in Eberswalde near Berlin (HNEE). Before he worked with the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy in Germany as director of the institute's Climate Policy Division. From 2009 to 2013 he was a Member of the Bundestag, the German federal parliament in Berlin, and served as the Greens' speaker on climate policy. He wrote books and articles in German and English in scientific journals, newspapers and weblogs on environmental and climate policy as well as sustainable governance.



Jan MALINOWSKI

Head of Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe

Since July 2018, Jan Malinowski has been the Head of Department of the European Social Charter, one of the two main Council of Europe human rights treaties. He is also the Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights. Earlier, he was the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group (December 2014 to June 2018), the Council of Europe's drug policy cooperation platform. Between 2005 and 2014, Jan served as Head of the Information Society Department and Head of the Media Division and, before that, Jan was a middle manager and member of the Secretariat of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Before joining the Council of Europe in 1993, Jan qualified as a Spanish lawyer and as a solicitor in England and Wales, and was a practising lawyer in Barcelona and London for eight years.



Tigran KARAPETYAN

Head of Unit, Division of Co-operation Programmes of the Council of Europe's Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards

Tigran KARAPETYAN is a Head of Unit in the Division of Co-operation Programmes of the Council of Europe's Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards. He works in the CoE since 2013. He is an experienced lawyer with considerable experience in leading projects in the field of Human Rights, Rule of Law, Good Governance and Democracy. Prior to joining the Council of Europe, Mr Karapetyan led the democratisation and good governance programming for the OSCE in Ukraine and before that served as a legal and project management expert on electoral and democracy issues for various international organisations. He also has significant experience as an in-house lawyer and a legal consultant in the commercial sector.



Mikhail LOBOV

Head of Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Mikhail LOBOV received his legal degree in 1992 from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University). In 1995, he earned a master's degree (D.E.A) in international law from Robert Schuman University (Strasbourg), and in 2004, a LL.M. from Columbia University Law School (New York).

He joined the Council of Europe in 1997 where he served successively as a Legal Officer dealing with the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Head of Legal Division at the Court's Registry and Head of the Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department at the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI). In March 2021 he took the lead of a new Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards. In 1995-1997, he taught constitutional law at Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg. His academic record also includes numerous lectures and publications on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights.
