

# Strengthening EU Environmental Law: Legal Perspectives on Greening Europe

This lecture will be delivered by

**Prof. Birgitte Egelund Olsen**

## **Accelerating renewable energy deployment: a balancing of considerations**

2 May 2024 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM CET

### **Abstract**

Increasing the EU renewable energy target is closely aligned with efforts to mitigate climate change. Additionally, accelerating the deployment of renewable energy contributes to ensuring energy security, in light of the current energy security crises. Concurrently, biodiversity in the EU is in a poor state. Recent changes in the EU renewable energy regime, aimed at a much-needed acceleration in renewable energy deployment, have led to a rapid shift in the environmental legislation paradigm. However, this shift is not occurring within environmental law but rather in energy law, specifically in renewable energy legislation. While energy security concerns are the driving force behind these changes, the underlying motivation is climate change mitigation. The recent amendments to the Renewable Energy Directive (2023/2413) and the Emergency Regulation on Renewable Energy Deployment (2024/223) imply a departure from long-established EU environmental law. As a result, when balancing different legal interests in individual cases, renewable energy projects are now presumed to take relative priority over environmental concerns. This shift poses new challenges in balancing concerns of climate change, energy security, and biodiversity protection. Furthermore, such developments in the environmental law paradigm may serve as a possible precedent for other sectors. The lecture will provide an overview of the relevant legal framework and address this difficult balancing of considerations based on EU law and with the inclusion of examples from Member State law.

### **Bio**

Birgitte Egelund Olsen is a Professor of Law at Aarhus University, Denmark. Her expertise lies in energy, climate, and environmental law. She has contributed to various research projects, analysing policy designs and regulatory mechanisms to promote sustainable transitions toward a carbon-neutral society. She holds several key positions: Chair of the Danish Food and Environment Appeal Board since 2017. Member of the Danish Energy Appeal Board since 2009. Member of the Danish Biodiversity Council since 2021.



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