



Summer Programme on International and European Environmental Law: *The Future We Choose*

24 - 28 August
2015
The Hague

Keynote Lecture: *International Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*

Prof. dr Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary University of London

The concept of sustainable development underlies all discourse relating to environmental matters. Much has changed since the World Commission on Environment and Development has published the fundamental work on sustainable development so –called the ‘Brundtland Report’ in 1987. This publication contained what has become a poster definition of this concept; development that ‘meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’ Such a definition does not reflect the core of the concept of sustainable development, which in essence has emerged as a concept at the international level to reconcile the interests of rich and developing countries, i.e. the economic development and environmental concerns. Its definition has been refined and developed through the milestones events in environmental law, such as the 1972 Stockholm Conference; the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; the 2002 Johannesburg Summit and 2012 Rio + 20. One of the core pillars of the concept of sustainable development are the rights of future generations, which is based on a premise of justice to future generations. This concept was discussed in many international decisions. However, there is still no full clarity as to its meaning and most importantly as to its implementation in practice. There is no doubt, however, that even lacking the precision, it is the most fundamental and seminal concept upon which environmental law is built.

A short biography:

Malgosia Fitzmaurice holds a chair of public international law at the Department of Law, Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in international environmental law, treaties, indigenous peoples and Arctic law and has published widely on these subjects.



Sign up for the Summer Programme and learn more about sustainable development:
www.asser.nl/SummerProgrammeEEL

The programme including speakers names is now available on our website!



www.asser.nl/summerprogrammes