



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

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The Hague

## *The Road to Paris and a Global Climate Agreement*

The draft negotiating text adopted on 12 February 2015 by all Parties to the UNFCCC forms the basis for the adoption of a global climate agreement to be signed in Paris at the end of this year. Delegates from 195 countries, meeting in Geneva from 8 to 13 February 2015 for the first negotiating session of the year, adopted the 86-page draft which builds on the key elements of the work completed in Lima at COP20 in 2014. The new text contains inputs and contributions from all Parties on the different sections on the table for mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, capacity building and more.

The text agreed upon will be the basis for the next negotiating session in June in Bonn but it does not yet solve many of the substantive issues under discussion since 2005. These are for instance how to differentiate responsibilities between developed and developing states; whether the agreement will contain a long-term goal related to peaking emissions or even fossil fuel phase out; what is the legal nature, if any, of Parties' contributions, and whether the wish of vulnerable states to see loss and damage addressed in the agreement will be heeded. Key questions pertaining to the legal form of the agreement also remain unsettled. Much remains to be done on the road to Paris, in other words.

Meanwhile, prominent EU and UN officials have started to temper expectations that pledges to commit to reducing emissions will be sufficient for keeping global warming below the internationally agreed 2°C threshold. Average global temperatures are already up by almost one degree compared to pre-industrial times. How much warmer it will get depends on Paris. In other words, the Paris Climate Summit will be about *the future we choose*.

At our Summer School, several speakers involved in the current climate talks will take the participants through the issues at stake, and lead a climate change negotiations simulation where the actual positions from developed and developing states will be addressed in order to grasp why reaching an agreement is so hard. Sign up for the summer programme at: [www.asser.nl/SummerProgrammeEEL](http://www.asser.nl/SummerProgrammeEEL)

