



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

24 - 28 August  
2015  
The Hague

Update: *Confirmed speaker Dr. Marcel Szabó, Hungarian Ombudsman for Future Generations*

Politicians often focus on the short term objectives, rather than the attainment of long term ones, like sustainable development. To counter this tendency, some countries have created institutions to protect the interests of future generations. For instance, in Finland a Committee for the Future exists, and in New Zealand a Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. In Hungary, the Ombudsman for Future Generations works on reinforcing advocacy for the natural environment and safeguarding intergenerational justice. He also monitors the enforcement of legal provisions that promote environmental sustainability, influences local and national legislation and participates in the domestic enforcement of international conventions.

Throughout the world there are similar calls for introducing such an institutional representation of future generations. These initiatives are supported by the Roundtable of National Institutions for a Sustainable Future.<sup>1</sup> This independent, non-formal network has as a primary goal the sharing of knowledge and dissemination of best practices of its member institutions engaged in the promotion of responsible, long-term governance. Additionally, it takes into consideration the wellbeing of our descendants and their natural environment.

The current Hungarian Ombudsman for Future Generations, **Dr. Marcel Szabó**, is a prominent member of this network. Dr. Szabó is an international lawyer as well as associate professor and head of department at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. Environmental law has been among the main fields of his professional and academic activities for nearly 20 years. He will join us in The Hague to discuss his experiences with the participants of the Summer Programme, and will explain *inter alia* which aspects of the Hungarian example could serve as a model for forward-looking nations around the globe.<sup>2</sup>

Sign up for the Summer Programme and join the discussion on “Making Intergenerational Equity Operational in Practice” with Dr. Szabó.

1 See: <http://futureroundtable.org/web/roundtable-of-national-institutions-for-a-sustainable-future/welcome>.

2 Dr M. Szabó, contribution on website of Future Justice, <http://www.futurejustice.org/blog/guest-contribution/an-example-guest-post/>, retrieved 29 April 2015.

