



EU Legislation on Wildlife Trafficking and Deforestation, and Combatting Associated Crime

Workshop for judges, court staff, and prosecutors

Prague, 27-29 May 2026

EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW⁷

Planned speakers & training managers

Anne Brosnan, Judicial Training Advisor, ERA, Trier; Secretary General of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE); Deputy Director (Chief Prosecutor), Legal and Audit Services, Environment Agency, Bristol

Anna Kanellopoulou, Course Director, European Public Law, ERA, Trier

Matthias Keller, Presiding Judge, Administrative Court, Aachen

Julia Rusch, International Relations Officer - International Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Focal Point for Whaling, EU Seals Regime and Humane Trapping, DG Environment, Brussels

Vojtech Vomacka, Assistant Professor, Masaryk University of Brno, Adviser, Supreme Administrative Court of Czechia

Katerina Weissova, Senior Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office, Czech Republic

IMPEL Representative

Key topics

- Wildlife protection, trade and trafficking
- Forest protection and logging
- Environmental Crime Directive
- The role of European organisations/networks/associations
- Investigation of, prosecution of and adjudication on wildlife and forest-related crimes
- CJEU case law
- Preliminary reference procedure
- Various case studies

Language
English

Event number
426DV132

Organiser
ERA (Anna Kanellopoulou) on behalf of the European Commission

EU LEGISLATION ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND DEFORESTATION, AND COMBATTING ASSOCIATED CRIME

Wednesday, 27 May 2026

08:45 Arrival and registration of participants

09:00 **Welcome and introduction**
Anna Kanellopoulou

I. SETTING THE SCENE

09:30 **Introduction to environmental, economic, social and criminal impacts of wildlife trafficking, deforestation and illegal logging**

- TRAFFIC's Reports
- CITES database
- Background to the financial flows associated with wildlife trafficking and illegal logging and trade of timber, and environmental crime
- Overview of the AML Regulation and Directive and its relevance for environmental offences
- Online platforms and environmental crimes

10:15 Discussion
Vojtech Vomacka

10:30 **Main features in the international law framework**

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Biological Diversity Global Biodiversity Framework (post-2020 targets)
- The EU global role in combatting wildlife crime and deforestation (including cooperation with UNODC, INTERPOL, and CITES Secretariat)

11:15 Discussion
Julia Rusch

11:30 Coffee break

II. EU LEGISLATION, POLICY AND CASE LAW

12:00 **Wildlife protection, trade and trafficking**

- Council Regulation (EC) no 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, as amended
- EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking 2022–2027, current implementation and evaluation
- Commission Regulation (EC) no 865/2006 concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) no 338/97
- Digital Services Act (Reg. (EU) 2022/2065), obligations of online platforms with regards to content and cooperation with authorities
- CJEU case law

12:45 Quiz and Discussion
Julia Rusch

13:15 Lunch break

14:15 **Case study on illegal wildlife trafficking: focus on online trafficking**

- Introduction to the case study
- Working groups
- Plenary discussion of the results

Katerina Weissova and Vojtech Vomacka

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 **Addressing deforestation (and enhancing forest protection)**

- EU Deforestation Regulation (Reg. (EU) 2023/1115) key obligations and due-diligence requirements
- Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT)
- CJEU case law

17:00 Discussion
Julia Fuelling

17:15 End of the first workshop day

19:00 Joint conference dinner

Objective

The aim of this 2.5-day workshop is to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the wildlife and forest-related crimes which have raised major concerns in recent years. Emphasis will be given to EU legislation and case law related to wildlife trade and trafficking, deforestation, and the illegal timber trade, the relationship between criminal and administrative law provisions for these crimes, as well as the main challenges for investigation, prosecution and adjudication in this field. This workshop will shed light on the protection of the environment through criminal law with special focus on wildlife and deforestation and the provisions under the new Environmental Crime Directive. By addressing these issues relevant for prosecutors as well as judges, it will facilitate the handling of future national court proceedings in this field.

Who should attend?

Judges, prosecutors, and court staff interested in environmental law.

Venue

Judicia Complex Prague /
Justiční areál Na Míčáncích, 28. pluku
1533/29b Praha 10 - Vršovice 100 00

Your contact persons



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Course Director
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Event Coordinator
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Thursday, 28 May 2026

III. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW

- 09:30 **Environmental Crime Directive**
- Main provisions of the Directive
 - Expanded list of environmental offences
 - Corporate liability and sanctions
 - Obligations for Member States by 2026
 - Role of judicial cooperation and transnational enforcement
- 10:15 Discussion
Vojtech Vomacka
- 10:30 **EU actors and instruments for cooperation**
- The role of organisations/networks/associations such as EUROPOL, OLAF, Eurojust, CEPOL, ENPE, and EUFJE
 - Practical examples of EU-wide cooperation and case handling
- 11:00 Discussion
Anne Brosnan
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 **Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife and forest-related crimes and offences**
- Usual modus operandi
 - Enforcement, sanctions, and ancillary orders in the prosecution of offences under the new ECD
 - Digital tools supporting investigation and prosecution
 - CJEU and national case law
- 12:30 Quiz and Discussion
Anne Brosnan
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 **Case study on deforestation and illegal timber trade**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion for a role-playing exercise
IMPEL or police enforcement representative
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 **Combatting wildlife and forest-related crimes in practice**
- Operation Thunder and other examples
 - Online emerging threats, corruption, and trade routes
 - Judicial cooperation outcomes
- 16:45 Discussion
IMPEL or police enforcement representative
- 17:00 End of the second workshop day

Friday, 29 May 2026

IV. ENFORCEMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- 09:30 **Case study on medicinal products from CITES-listed plants**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion of the results
Matthias Keller
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 **The role of national judges and prosecutors in enforcing EU legislation on wildlife trafficking, deforestation and illegal logging – focus on preliminary reference and the requirement for access to justice**
- 12:20 Discussion and exchange of experience
Matthias Keller
- 12:40 **Evaluation of the workshop**
Anna Kanellopoulou and Anne Brosnan
- 13:00 End of the workshop

Apply online for

EU Legislation on Wildlife Trafficking and Deforestation, and Combatting Associated Crime

Prague, 27-29 May 2026 / Event number: 426DV132



Funded by the European Union's 'Cooperation with national judges in the field of environmental law' programme.

Conditions of participation

Selection Criteria

1. Participation is open only to judges, judicial staff and prosecutors from European Union Member States.
2. The number of places available is limited. Participation will be subject to a selection procedure. Selection will depend on:
 - i. The suitability of the seminars for the candidate's professional life;
 - ii. A geographical balance among participants will be sought;
 - iii. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, only one person per institution may be accepted.
3. Online applications can be submitted until 7 April 2026.
4. Each applicant for this workshop will receive a response shortly after this deadline. We advise you not to book any travel or hotel arrangements before receiving our confirmation.

Registration fee

5. There is no registration fee.

Travel expenses

6. Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to a maximum of €200 for domestic travel and €380 for international travel upon presentation of original travel receipts (airline ticket, boarding pass, train ticket, taxi fares can only be reimbursed in exceptional cases and must be justified in writing, etc.). Participants are advised to use the most economical means of transport available.

Accommodation

7. A maximum of 3 nights' hotel accommodation will be covered directly by ERA, only for the hotel booked by ERA.

Other services

8. Lunches, drinks consumed during the event and workshop documents will be paid for by **ERA**.

Participation

9. Participation in the entire workshop is required and attendance will be monitored.
10. A list of all participants' working addresses will be made available to all participants, unless ERA receives a written objection from the participant at least one week before the start of the event.
11. The participant's address and other relevant information will be stored in the ERA database for the purpose of providing information about future events, publications and/or other ERA developments in the participant's area of interest, unless the participant indicates that they do not wish the ERA to do so.
12. A certificate of attendance will be issued electronically after the workshop.
13. For further information, please visit the project website: www.era.int/environmental_law

For more information:

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Language
English