



# European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE)

Information provided by the EUFJE

July, 2014

## *A. General information*

<b>Name of network</b>	European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE)
<b>Date of constitution</b>	2004
<b>Legal Statute</b>	Non-for-profit International Association a.i.s.b.l. under Belgian law
<b>Legal Seat</b>	Place Royale 7, B – 1000 Brussels, Belgium
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.eufje.org/">http://www.eufje.org/</a>

## *B. Goals of the network*

The purpose of the association is to promote, in the perspective of sustainable development, the implementation of National, European and International Environmental law.

The Association seeks more particular to: share experience on judicial training in environmental law; foster the knowledge of environmental law among judges; share experience on environmental case law; contribute to a better implementation and enforcement of International, European and national environmental law.

Recognising each other's independence, the association shall promote contacts and exchanges of information between its Members and Observers and with the European Union authorities. At intervals to be established by the General Assembly, it shall organise a colloquium to consider matters falling within its terms of reference.

## *C. Membership structure of the network – Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities)*

### **Members:**

The following judge can be a member of the Association:

- who is interested in environmental law;

- who is a member of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights or a court or tribunal of a Member State of the European Union or a Member State of the European Free Trade Association.

Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities): 113

- Austria: 3
- Belgium: 8
- Bulgaria: 3
- Croatia: 1
- Cyprus: 2
- Czech Republic: 2
- Denmark: 3
- Estonia: 2
- Finland: 6
- France: 4
- Germany: 4
- Greece: 2
- Hungary: 2
- Ireland: 3
- Italy: 3
- Latvia: 5
- Luxembourg: 2
- Malta: 3
- Norway: 2
- Netherlands: 3
- Poland: 3
- Portugal: 3
- Slovakia: 6
- Slovenia: 3
- Spain: 4
- Sweden: 5
- Turkey: 1
- Others: 2

**Observers:**

- Similarly empowered judges of States which are engaged in negotiations with a view to their actually joining the European Union can be admitted as Observers. As soon as the State to which it belongs has joined the European Union, the Observer becomes automatically at his/her request a Member of the Association.
- A representative of the European Commission, of the Council of Europe, of the United Nations Environmental Program and, subject to approval of the general assembly, other international organisations, can participate in the activities of the Association in an observer capacity.

#### *D. Governance and bodies of the network*

The Association is administered by a Board. The present Board is composed of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and an Auditor.

#### *E. Brief resume of the judicial training activities developed (if applicable) by the network*

The Forum was created with a view to raising the awareness of judges of the key role of the judicial function in the effectiveness of sustainable development.

The EUFJE has endeavoured to get involved into the process of EU legislation. The EUFJE is mindful that matters of policy are not matters for judges. A number of EUFJE suggestions have been adopted by the rapporteur of the European Parliament Committee for Environment.

The Forum can build on this experience and discuss during the annual conference on EU legislation in the making. The experience gathered by the Forum on EU environment law is of practical value for EU judges as well as for EU institutions.

The EUFJE has also taken part in the work of the UN, with the Aarhus convention on access to justice in the field of environment law.

##### **Recent events:**

2012:

- The Hague, Annual Conference: EU – Support for cooperation with national judges in the field of Environmental Law
- UNECE – Aarhus Convention – Task force on access to justice
- UNEP – World Congress on justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability

##### **Other activities:**

- Cooperation with the newly established 'European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment'  
Cooperation with Pace university New-York and others in view of the creation of an 'International Judicial institute for Environmental Adjudication'.

#### *F. Highlight of the network's statutory provisions that make reference to judicial training / Concerns of the network referring to judicial training*

The Association seeks more particularly to: share experience on judicial training in environmental law; foster the knowledge of environmental law among judges; share experience on environmental case law; contribute to a better implementation and enforcement of international, European and national environmental law.

#### *G. Brief resume of the trends of cooperation and/or regular contacts established by the network with major judicial networks involved in the current project*

The EUFJE is collaborating on a regular basis with the Working Party on Environmental Law of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ) and the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) by inviting representatives of both networks to the annual conferences

and sending representatives to their general meetings or workshops. Furthermore EUFJE is, together with the AEAJ and the Association of the Councils of State (ACA-Europe), represented in the general assembly and the steering committee of the training program on "Cooperation with national judges and prosecutors in in the field of EU environmental law" funded by the European Commission, which is now executed by the Academy of European Law. EUFJE will also continue to work with the Working Party on Environmental Law of the AEAJ in the framework of the Commission Expert Group of National Judges on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. EUFJE will also develop some links with the EJTN and its main partners in the framework of the Pilot Project on European judicial training.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 4 – Promotion of cooperation between judicial stakeholders concerned by European judicial training*", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)