

## Tentative overview HELF lectures series 2014

4 April 2014

### **Whaling in the Antarctic: Observations on the ICJ Judgment in the Case Australia v. Japan**

*Dr. Olivier Ribbelink, Senior researcher International Public Law, T.M.C. Asser Instituut*

On 31 March 2014, the International Court of Justice will pronounce its verdict in the case Whaling in the Antarctic: Australia v Japan, New Zealand Intervening. Australia claims that Japan's continued pursuit of a large-scale program of whaling under its research program is in breach of that country's obligations under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling ("ICRW"), as well as its other international obligations for the preservation of marine mammals and the marine environment. Dr. Ribbelink will provide his observations and comments on the manner in which the ICJ decided in this case.

April or May 2014

### **The Environmental Legacy of Sochi: Time to Take the Olympic Charter Seriously!**

*Antoine Duval, Senior researcher, T.M.C. Asser Instituut*

The Sochi Olympic Games have drawn to a close. Many facets of these Games have come under fire from critical commentators: the price tag, the climate, the human rights violations, the low attendance, the quality of the hotels, the list goes on... At the closing ceremony, however, IOC President Bach complimented Russia for "delivering on all that it promised." Considering environmental promises and the actual damage to the environment in Sochi, a different point of view on the environmental legacy of these Olympic Games will be set out during this event.

1, 2, 22 of 23 May 2014

### **The European Aarhus space: the role of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, the ECHR and the CJEU**

*Prof. Dr. Ellen Hey, Professor of International Law, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University and Visiting Professorial Fellow (2013-2015), School of Law, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia*

Drawing on her extensive research in this matter, and her membership of the Aarhus Compliance Committee, prof. Hey will discuss the manner in which this unique convention through its own Compliance Committee and the case law of both the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union has shaped the manner in which Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters are regulated in Europe.

May or June 2014

### **Europol and the fight against environmental crimes**

*Catherine Alfonsi, Europol*

Preventing and prosecuting crimes that involve export of goods like ivory and redlisted animals and plants call for international cooperation. The role of Europol and its member states in this respect will be set out.

September 2014

### **Negotiating a new global climate change regime: the run-up to COP-21 in Paris 2015**

*Maas Goote, director IUCN Netherlands and former UN negotiator*

By 2015, a new regime is to be agreed between developed and developing states across the globe to fight climate change. At the COP-21 in Paris, this agreement is to be reached so that it can enter into force by 2020 at the latest. What are the prospects for this plan to succeed, and which hurdles will need to be taken so that countries like the USA and China will agree to sign up to such a deal? Former UN negotiator and present IUCN Netherlands director Maas Goote will discuss these questions at this HELF event.

### ***Illegal waste transport: the Probo Koala case revisited***

*Speaker contacted, to be confirmed*

A series of court decisions in The Netherlands and arbiter decisions in the United Kingdom in the Probo Koala case have demonstrated the strengths and weaknesses of the international and European regimes regulating the import and export of hazardous waste. This introduction will focus on the legal aspects of effectively enforcing the waste transport rules.

### ***The environmental boundaries of the battlefield***

*Dr. Christoph Paulussen, senior researcher Asser Instituut*

#### **Other tentative topics:**

- Shell Nigeria cases
- Urgenda case
- remote sensing and enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- the fight against illegal logging: the EU and USA approaches compared