



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

Workshop for judges, court staff, and prosecutors

Florence, 28-30 September 2026



EXCELLENCE IN  
**EUROPEAN LAW**<sup>7</sup>

### 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

**Luisa Cortat**, Deputy Head of Section, European Public Law, ERA, Trier

**Michael Faure**, Professor of Comparative and International Environmental Law, Maastricht University

**Matthias Keller**, Presiding Judge, Administrative Court, Aachen

**Ricarda von Meding**, Legal and Policy Officer – International Forest Policy

**Representative from Carabinieri**

### 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  
426DV133

Organiser  
Dr Luisa Cortat (ERA)

# EU Legislation on Wildlife Trafficking, Deforestation & Combatting Associated Crime

## Monday, 28 September 2026

08:45 Arrival and registration of participants

09:00 **Welcome and introduction**  
*Luisa Cortat or Anna Kanellopoulou*

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### I. SETTING THE SCENE

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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  
*Michael Faure*

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

11:30 Coffee break

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### II. EU LEGISLATION, POLICY AND CASE LAW

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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

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

*Anne Brosnan and Michael Faure*

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  
*Ricarda von Meding*

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

University of Florence  
Piazza della Indipendenza, 9, 50129  
Firenze FI, Italia

## Networking opportunity

Our legal training events offer a fantastic opportunity to connect with legal professionals and high-level speakers from different parts of Europe. Together, you will have the chance to network during our coffee breaks our joint conference dinner in a friendly atmosphere.

## Tuesday, 29 September 2026

III.	PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW
09:30	<b>Environmental Crime Directive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main provisions of the Directive</li> <li>Expanded list of environmental offences</li> <li>Corporate liability and sanctions</li> <li>Obligations for Member States by 2026</li> <li>Role of judicial cooperation and transnational enforcement</li> </ul>
10:15	Discussion <i>Michael Faure</i>
10:30	<b>EU actors and instruments for cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of organisations/networks/associations such as EUROPOL, OLAF, Eurojust, CEPOL, ENPE, and EUFJE</li> <li>Practical examples of EU-wide cooperation and case handling</li> </ul>
11:00	Discussion <i>Anne Brosnan</i>
11:15	Coffee break
11:45	<b>Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife and forest-related crimes and offences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usual <i>modus operandi</i></li> <li>Enforcement, sanctions, and ancillary orders in the prosecution of offences under the new ECD</li> <li>Digital tools supporting investigation and prosecution</li> <li>CJEU and national case law</li> </ul>
12:30	Quiz and Discussion <i>Anne Brosnan</i>
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	<b>Case study on deforestation and illegal timber trade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the case study</li> <li>Working groups</li> <li>Plenary discussion for a role-playing exercise <i>Representative from Carabinieri</i></li> </ul>
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	<b>Combatting wildlife and forest-related crimes in practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation Thunder and other examples</li> <li>Online emerging threats, corruption, and trade routes</li> <li>Judicial cooperation outcomes</li> </ul>
16:45	Discussion <i>Representative from Carabinieri</i>
17:00	End of the second workshop day

## Wednesday, 30 September 2026

IV.	ENFORCEMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL
09:30	<b>Case study on medicinal products from CITES-listed plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the case study</li> <li>Working groups</li> <li>Plenary discussion of the results <i>Matthias Keller</i></li> </ul>
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	<b>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</b>
12:20	Discussion and exchange of experience <i>Matthias Keller</i>
12:40	<b>Evaluation of the workshop</b> <i>Luisa Cortat or Anna Kanellopoulou and Judicial Advisor</i>
13:00	End of the workshop

### Your contacts



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### Save the date

**EU Environmental Impact Assessment Requirements**  
Lisbon, 7-9 September 2026

**From Energy Reform to Climate Action**  
Online, 8-9 October 2026



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Programme may be subject to amendment.

# Application

EU Legislation on Wildlife Trafficking, Deforestation & Combatting Associated Crime  
Florence, 28-30 September 2026 / Event Number: 426DV133



## Conditions of participation

### Selection Criteria

1. Participation is open only to judges, court 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 10 July 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:  
<https://environmental-law.era.int/>

### Online application:

[www.era.int/en/event-number/426DV133](http://www.era.int/en/event-number/426DV133)



Scan Me

### For more information

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