

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

Réseau des Procureurs Européens pour l'environnement



ENPE newsletter - Issue 11

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Message from ENPE President Anne Brosnan

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to use this short newsletter to share the report from our 2019 annual conference, which was held in The Hague in conjunction with our colleagues at EUROJUST. The conference took place in their lovely new headquarters building from 28-30 October 2019. Once again we have opted for the digital format which makes for interesting viewing and reading.



The conference title was: *“International collaboration & co-operation in the fight against environmental crime”* and you can read all about it and catch up on all the presentations and feedback here:

<https://www.magazine-on-the-spot.nl/environmentalcrime/> which will soon be available from our ENPE website. We heard from keynote speakers from Australia, USA, Canada and Brazil who shared their experiences and challenges in tackling global environmental crime. It is very clear that international border and jurisdictions are not respected by illegal operators and criminals, so working together across state and continental boundaries is critical in tackling this emerging threat.

We were very pleased to see so many of our ENPE member representatives attending not only the conference but also our AGM which was held on the 29 October.

Our network continues to grow in numbers and in strength, and we welcome new members and more participation from those already involved in all of our work. Please do get in touch if you want to find out more.

Our next event is a benefits realisation workshop to be held in Genval in Belgium in March 2020. This will comprise a facilitated session on benefits realisation, focussing on the 5-year LIFE-ENPE project, including the project outputs reported, emerging benefits and future workplans. We hope shortly to have more news of our next conference which is likely to follow the successful Four Networks model of Utrecht and Oxford, to be planned in conjunction with IMPEL, EUFJE and EnviCrimeNet.

Thank you all for your support and interest in our activities.

ENPE and international collaboration and co-operation

In keeping with our conference theme, ENPE representatives including Board members Antonio Vercher Noguera and Rob de Rijck have been busy working with colleagues from around the world in the fight against environmental crime

El Pacto Latin American & European Environmental Crime Impact conference; Lima, Peru 07-10 October 2019



ENPE Board Member Antonio Vercher Noguera represented ENPE as a guest speaker at a recent environmental crime conference held by PAACTO in Lima, Peru. Antonio presented on how the ENPE network is organised and operates in a discussion related to legislation needed to tackle environmental crime in Amazonian Latin America, including Peru. He was also part of a panel discussing International Judicial Co-operation, again with reference to tackling environmental crime in Latin America, and particularly relevant to the ENPE and EUROJUST conference theme

which was to follow just a few weeks later. Antonio was were fortunate enough to visit parts of the Peruvian Amazon rainforest and see just how important protecting this unique environment is.



Chinese delegation of prosecutors in Amsterdam

On Friday 1 November, 2019, Rob de Rijck, ENPE Vice-President, LIFE-ENPE Board member and national coordinating environmental prosecutor in the Netherlands, was host to a delegation of environmental prosecutors of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China. The delegation of six prosecutors, led by Mr Jinghui Qiu, lead prosecutor of the 8th Division of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, had previously visited the combined ENPE-Eurojust *Conference on International Collaboration & Cooperation in the Fight against Environmental Crime* in The Hague.



Alongside its attendance at the conference, the delegation had expressed a wish to hear about the situation of criminal law enforcement concerning environmental law in the Netherlands and therefore a visit was arranged which took place in Amsterdam. The delegation was accompanied by four members of ClientEarth's China office. Rob was in the company of a press officer from the Dutch Prosecutor's Office.

In a two hour meeting, Rob did his utmost to present to our honored guests a clear picture of the Dutch organization of administrative and legal systems, and of environmental law in the Netherlands and its enforcement, especially criminal enforcement. He pointed out that, although the Netherlands is only a mid-sized member state within the EU, its organization is complex and that its enforcement of environmental law faces a number of pressing challenges.

In the very lively discussion that arose during the meeting, it became clear that the Chinese and the Dutch systems have, in spite of the differences that there evidently are, many common characteristics and tasks. That is an important and inspiring thought, because this insight and the willingness to learn from one another, may help us all in achieving the best results in our work.

It turned out that two hours were simply not enough for a full exploration of the issues. Not all aspects of the Dutch system could be discussed and also, Rob especially felt some regret that time was too short for him, in turn, to learn from the honored guests from the Procuratorate. A continuation of the exchange seems most called for.



ENPE website crimes database

As a reminder, we welcome submissions for inclusion on the ENPE crimes database. The database is part of the ENPE website <https://www.environmentalprosecutors.eu/> and is building a collection of case law for all three ENPE working group subject areas (wildlife crime, waste crime & air pollution). The database is of a non-operational character and concerned with legal aspects only. Names of defendants and other identifying information are left out. Because the main function of the database is supporting the ENPE network of prosecutors, access to it is not public, but is subject to authorisation by ENPE. Environmental prosecutors in Europe are invited to request an authorisation - please contact Rob de Rijck or Lars Magnusson on r.de.rijck@om.nl or Lars.Magnusson@aklagare.se. Case law, with identifying details omitted and together with the relevant database keywords and a summary in English, can be submitted via the national ENPE contact points.

Contact

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