



#RELAYproject: workshop 1

'The Green Deal: What are its implications for animals and nature?'

25 January 2021

Online conference by [Maastricht Sustainability Institute at Maastricht University](#)

Abstract

'The atmosphere is warming, and the climate is changing with each passing year. One million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed. The European Green Deal is a response to these challenges. It is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. It must put people first, and pay attention to the regions, industries and workers who will face the greatest challenges.' (The Green Deal).

The European Commission speaks about protecting Europe's natural capital and resources. However, does it acknowledge the **value of nature and animals** for their own sake or simply as a means for human flourishing?

This is the **first thematic workshop within RELAY project** which will discuss how 'The Green Deal' is tackling this issue and give a 'voice' to the voiceless. The workshop will comprise of two sessions: one will focus on the role of nature in the Green Deal, the other on animals.

By the end of the day there will be an opportunity to merge both items into a final discussion session. The workshop brings together **academics and stakeholders** to explore the topic from different angles.

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Programme of the day

09:30-09:45 | Opening of virtual room

09:45-10:00 | Welcome and introduction

Ceren Pekdemir

Assistant Professor, Maastricht Sustainability Institute

Pim Martens

Professor of Sustainable Development, Maastricht Sustainability Institute

10:00-12:00 | Session 1

Speakers:

Philipp Pattberg

Director of the Amsterdam Sustainability Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

'Will the Green Deal accelerate the sustainability transition: a preliminary analysis'

Frank Biermann

Research Professor of Global Sustainability Governance with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University

'The Green Deal: An Earth System Governance Perspective'

Burak Can

Assistant Professor at School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University

'Towards Climate-Neutral and Socially Innovative Cities, but how?'

12:00-12:30 | Lunch break

12:30-14:30 | Session 2

Speakers:

Bram Büscher

Professor and Chair at the Sociology of Development and Change group, Wageningen University

'A Green New Deal needs a radically different conservation: towards a convivial alternative'

Monique Janssens

Communications Consultant at Animal Welfare Body, Utrecht University

'Animal Business, an ethical exploration of corporate responsibility towards animals'

Jorgo Riss

Executive Director, Greenpeace European Unit

'European Green Deal or European Greenwash?'



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14:30-15:00 | Coffee break

15:00-16:00 | Interactive debate and concluding remarks

What is RELAY?

RELAY is a Jean Monnet project that aims at discussing the European Commission's political guidelines and work programme with a wide and diverse array of stakeholders. Stakeholders will be able to provide input through a series of conferences, workshops, and working papers. At the end of the project, the results of these discussions will be integrated into a policy brief with recommendations. For more information, please [visit the RELAY website](#).

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