



CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

5-6 JUNE 2025, BUDAPEST

international conference organized by Pázmány Péter
Catholic University, Budapest
in cooperation with the Constitutional Court of Hungary and
the National Council for Sustainable Development



PÁZMÁNY

Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem
Jog- és Államtudományi Kar



ALKOTMÁNYBÍRÓSÁG



Nemzeti Fenntartható
Fejlődési Tanács

CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Attendance is free of charge but requires a prior registration.
Without prior registration, the organizers cannot provide access to the building of the Parliament (day 2 of the conference). Online registration closes on 3 June 2025 (Tuesday), at 11am (CET)

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/55uzjdr7>

VENUES

DAY 1

**POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II HALL
PÁZMÁNY PÉTER CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**

28. SZENTKIRÁLYI STR., 1088 BUDAPEST



DAY 2

**DELEGATION HALL
PARLIAMENT OF HUNGARY**

**1-3 KOSSUTH LAJOS SQ., 1055 BUDAPEST
ENTRANCE: GATE XII**



VENUE: POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II HALL
(PÁZMÁNY PÉTER CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, FACULTY
OF LAW, 28 SZENTKIRÁLYI STR., 1088 BUDAPEST)

8.30 – 9.00	REGISTRATION
9.00 – 9.20	Conference opening and welcome speeches <i>Dr. habil. László Komáromi</i> , dean (PPCU) <i>Prof. Marcel Szabó</i> , professor of law (PPCU), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
9.20 – 9.30	Why do we need to protect the Earth and the climate? A message from the representatives of future generations living in the present: <i>Flóra Emma Földes</i> , and <i>András Kapitány</i>
9.30 – 9.50	Climate change litigation before the Belgian Constitutional Court and civil courts <i>Prof. Luc Lavrysen</i> , professor emeritus (Ghent University), president (Constitutional Court of Belgium)
9.55 – 10.15	2024 climate case of the Constitutional Court of Korea <i>Justice Jung Jungmi</i> , justice (Constitutional Court of Korea)
10.20 – 10.35	The Hungarian Constitutional Court's climate decision and its implications for future generations <i>Dr. habil. Sándor Szemesi</i> , chief counselor (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
10.40 – 11.00	COFFEE BREAK
11.00 – 11.15	Implementation of international legal obligations in the EU Member States in the field of climate protection – the role of the European Union <i>Prof. Markus Gehring</i> , professor of law (University of Cambridge)
11.20 – 11.35	The connection between organisational restructuring in public administration and climate protection <i>Dr. Ildikó Hörcher Marosi</i> , justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
11.40 – 11.55	Mainstreaming future generations. The constitutional vision of the human person <i>Prof. Balázs Schanda</i> , professor of law (PPCU), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)

12.00 – 12.15	Climate destruction during wartime? <i>Dr. Réka Varga</i> , associate professor of law (PPCU; Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
12.20 – 13.20	BUFFET LUNCH
13.25 – 13.40	Advisory proceedings on climate change before international courts: outcomes, expectation, and risks <i>Prof. Christina Voigt</i> , professor of law (University of Oslo)
13.45 – 14.00	Legal issues of climate change from the perspective of future generations – based on the Fundamental Law of Hungary <i>Prof. Gyula Bándi</i> , professor of law (PPCU), Hungarian Ombudsman for Future Generations
14.05 – 14.20	Recognition or justiciability? The dilemma of international equity in domestic and international climate litigation <i>Dr. habil. Katalin Sulyok</i> , associate professor of law (Durham University; ELTE Law School)
14.25 – 14.40	International litigation of nationally determined contributions <i>Dr. habil. Tamás Ádány</i> , associate professor of law (PPCU)
14.45 – 15.00	The contribution of the local level to international (human rights) obligations to mitigate climate change <i>Prof. Christina Binder</i> , professor of law (Bundeswehr University München) - ONLINE
15.05 – 15.20	Mr. Smith's cases: climate litigation in New Zealand <i>Prof. Caroline Foster</i> , professor of law (University of Auckland) and <i>Lara Albert</i> , advanced student (New Zealand Centre of Environmental Law, University of Auckland) - ONLINE
15.25 – 15.40	COFFEE BREAK

15.40 – 16.40

Why do we need to take action and what can we do to protect the climate and our future?

Roundtable discussion with representatives of the Hungarian environmental NGOs (in Hungarian, with simultaneous interpretation)

Participants:

Prof. Marcel Szabó, professor of law (PPCU), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)

Ákos Éger, executive president (National Society of Conservationists)

Dr. Gergő Halmos, director (Birdlife Hungary)

Dr. Csaba Kiss, director (Environmental Management and Law Association – EMLA)

Csaba Lajtmann, president (Climate Alliance Hungary)

János Bálint Mező, director (Greenpeace Hungary)

Katalin Sipos, director (WWF Hungary)

Moderator:

Dr. habil. Sándor Szemesi, chief counselor (Constitutional Court of Hungary)

16.40

CLOSING OF DAY 1 OF THE CONFERENCE

8.30 – 9.00	REGISTRATION
9.00 – 9.20	Conference opening and welcome speeches <i>Dr. Katalin Szili</i> , honorary president (National Council for Sustainable Development), former Speaker of the Parliament <i>Prof. Attila Horváth</i> , professor of law (PPCU; Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest), acting president (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
9.20 – 9.35	What can ordinary courts do to protect nature, and our climate? <i>Prof. András Zs. Varga</i> , professor of law (PPCU), president (Curia of Hungary)
9.40 – 9.55	The role of the Historical Constitution of Hungary in protecting the natural and climatic conditions of Hungary and the Carpathian Basin <i>Prof. Attila Horváth</i> , professor of law (PPCU; Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest), acting president (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
10.00 – 10.15	Considerations of intergenerational equity and common heritage of the nation in the Hungarian Constitutional Court's climate decision <i>Prof. Marcel Szabó</i> , professor of law (PPCU), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)
10.20 – 10.50	COFFEE BREAK
10.50 – 11.10	Climate litigation in France: the case of the commune of Grande Synthe <i>Président Fabien Raynaud</i> , justice (Conseil d'État of France)
11.15 – 11.35	The German Federal Constitutional Court's approach to climate protection: the so-called Neubauer case <i>Prof. Martin Eifert</i> , professor of law (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), justice (Constitutional Court of Germany)

11.40 – 11.55	<p>Climate courage, contributions and compliance: advancing international law for future generations and our natural world</p> <p><i>Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger</i>, professor of law (University of Cambridge)</p>
12.00 – 12.15	<p>The relationship between administrative instruments for protecting the climate, the landscape and the environment – from a constitutional perspective</p> <p><i>Prof. András Patyi</i>, professor of law (Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest), justice (Constitutional Court of Hungary)</p>
12.20 – 12.35	<p>The German and the Hungarian Constitutional Court’s climate decisions: similarities and differences</p> <p><i>Prof. Petra Lea Láncos</i>, vice dean, professor of law (PPCU)</p>
12.40 – 13.40	BUFFET LUNCH
13.40 – 13.55	<p>A right to a sustainable climate or a right to climate sustainability? Fundamental climate rights, mitigation and adaptation</p> <p><i>Prof. Ottavio Quirico</i>, professor of law (University of New England, Australia; ANU Centre for European Studies, Perugia University for Foreigners)</p>
14.00 – 14.15	<p>Climate, biodiversity and natural assets – pros and cons of the law of the European Union</p> <p><i>Dr. habil. Laura Gyeney</i>, associate professor of law (PPCU)</p>
14.20 – 14.35	<p>California greening: differences in California and federal approaches to climate change law</p> <p><i>Prof. Aaron Schwabach</i>, professor of law (California Western School of Law, San Diego)</p>
14.40 – 14.55	<p>Comparing national and subnational climate litigation in the U.S.</p> <p><i>Prof. Richard Wallsgrove</i>, co-director of the Environmental Law Program (University of Hawaii)</p>
15.00 – 15.15	<p>The value of transformative environmental constitutionalism in climate litigation</p> <p><i>Prof. Melanie Murcott</i>, associate professor of law (University of Cape Town)</p>
15.15	CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

