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# Law under the challenge of the environmental crisis

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## Conference abstract

Recent scientific studies have analysed the consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss on the planet and people's lives, and have concluded that urgent action is needed. All evidence shows that the next decades will be critical.

Regulating human activity and addressing its impact is the essence of environmental law. In this respect, contemporary Greek environmental law has evolved under the “dual star” of the EC law and the pioneering art. 24 of the 1975 Greek Constitution, which ushered a “right to the environment”, with considerable influence on subsequent law and case-law.

Nevertheless, environmental law has not managed to avert the current existential predicament of climate change and massive biodiversity loss. A variety of reasons have been put forward, ranging from the lack of proper monitoring and enforcement, to inherent reasons such as the continuous balancing of the environment with the exigencies of an obsolete development model, or legal and institutional gaps. It has also been questioned whether environmental law possesses the appropriate tools so as to respond to these challenges, and whether a re-thinking of our legal and institutional framework is in order.

During the last 15 years, the aforementioned issues have been highlighted in the annual WWF environmental law reviews. The conference under the title “Law under the challenge of environmental crisis” aims at assessing the progress of the past in the light of the demands of the future.