

Niels Hoek

Legal Scholar and Environmental Lawyer

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic

2026 – present	Researcher in Public and Constitutional Law for Nature and Environment, Wageningen University Research
2024 – 2026	Coordinator of the Environmental Law and Governance Working Group at the Department of Law, European University Institute (EUI)
2025 – 2026	Visiting Researcher, Universität Wien
2024 – 2025	Coordinator Environment Strategy for the EUI Vision Roadmap 2025-2030, European University Institute
2024 – 2025	Teaching Assistant, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute
2021 – 2022	Junior Lecturer in Public International Law and European Law, Radboud University Nijmegen

NGOs

2021 – 2023	Green Trainee Biodiversity Conservation, NGO Butterfly Foundation Netherlands, Legal Researcher Environmental Law, NGO Natuur en Milieu (Nature & Environment)
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EDUCATION

2022 – 2027	Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Law, European University Institute
2022 – 2023	L.L.M in Comparative, European and International Laws, European University Institute
2020 – 2021	L.L.M in European and International Law (Magna Cum Laude), Tilburg University
2016 – 2020	L.L.B European Law School (Honours Academy), Radboud University Nijmegen

PUBLICATIONS

Edited volume

2024	Hoek, N.M Janssen, C. Janssen, A. Kuypers, P, Spanning Tussen Duurzaamheid en Europees Recht [Tensions between Sustainability and EU Law] (Wolters Kluwer 2024)
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Key Publications

2026	[Accepted] Hoek, N.M, The EU Nature Restoration Law And Pollinators: Ambition without Alignment? submitted to RECIEL.
2026	Hoek, N.M Light Pollution in EU Law: Unveiling Shadow Governance, in Transnational Environmental Law (TEL), vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 196-218
2022	Hoek, N.M, A Critical Analysis of the Proposed Nature Restoration Regulation, European Energy and Environmental Law Review, 31 (23), pp. 320-333.

Other Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2026	[Under Review: Revisions] Jessica Stubenrauch, Moritz Reese, Katharine Heyl, Moritz Hermsdorf, Niels Hoek, Eleonora Ciscato, Bente de Leeuw, Volker Mauerhofer, Elisa Cavallin, Francesca Leucci, Ana Mendes, Enrico Mezzacapo, Hendrik
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- Schoukens, Morgan Eleanor Harris, An Cliquet and Laura Hildt, 'A roadmap for success: Legal solutions to implementation challenges of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, Submitted to Land Use Policy
- 2023 Hoek, N.M, and others, Implementing Rights of Nature: an EU Natureship to address Anthropocentrism in Environmental Law? Utrecht Law Review, Vol. 19, p. 76-86
- 2022 Hoek, N.M, Het (Europees) Natuurbeschermingsrecht; van behoud naar herstel, Milieu & Recht, 2022/114, p. 679-684
- 2022 Hoek, N.M. REDD+ through the Lens of Natural Ecosystem Values and Biodiversity Conservation. Environmental Law Network International (ELNI) Review, 22, 10-17. doi: <https://doi.org/10.46850/elni.2022.002>
- 2022 Hoek, N.M. The Habitats Directive and Heath. The Strain of Climate Change and Nitrogen Deposition. European Energy and Environmental Law Review, 31 (1), 41-53

Contributions to edited volumes

- 2027 **[Submitted]** Hoek, N, E. Evangelidis , in Research Handbook on Nature Restoration Law in the EU, Edgar Elgar, 'Private Rights, Public Goals: Property and Restoration in EU Law'.
- 2025 Hoek N. M, Crosera A, Environmental Litigation and the CJEU: Overcoming Barriers to Standing? in Climate Change before International Courts: A Comparative Study, London: Routledge.
- 2024 Hoek, N.M 'De Keten van Lichtvervuiling en EU-recht: Mogelijkheden voor Herstel van de Nacht?' In Duurzame Handelsketen en Recht: een Decennium Later. Den Haag: Boom.
- 2024 Hoek, N.M. Nature Restoration Put to Law: Tensions and Synergies between Private Property Rights and Environmental Protection: In Spanningen tussen Europees Recht en Duurzaamheid, Deventer: Wolters Kluwer, pp.
- 2024 Hoek, N.M Janssen, C. Janssen, A. Kuypers (2024). Inleiding in: Spanningen tussen Europees Recht en Duurzaamheid, Deventer: Wolters Kluwer

Case notes, book reviews, and internet articles

- 2025 Hoek, N.M, Aanfluiting voor Nederland: Geen Plan en Uitstel voor Biodiversiteit' , Vereniging van Milieurecht
- 2024 Hoek, N.M, Muller, J (2024), 'Without Nature, no Human Rights: Implications of KlimaSerionnen for Biodiversity' In EU Law Live Symposium
- 2024 An Cliquet and others 'Ten Legal Reasons to vote for the EU Nature Restoration Law', Society of Ecological Restoration (SER)
- 2023 Hoek, N.M, De EU Natuurherstel Wet: Uitgekleed maar (nog) niet uitgeserveerd, Vereniging van Milieurecht
- 2023 Hoek, N. M, Addressing Legal Myths about the EU Nature Restoration Law, (blog) Verfassungsblog
- 2023 Hoek, N.M, Moving Towards Ecological Law [Book Review Ecological Law and the Planetary Crisis: A Legal Guide for Harmony on Earth], European Journal of Legal Studies
- 2023 Hoek, N. M, Lichtvervuiling groeit wereldwijd, waar zijn de sterren? NRC Handelsblad
- 2022 Hoek, N.M, The Protection of Plants: new insights [Book Review International Conservation Law the Protection of Plants in Theory and Practice], Environmental Law Review, 24(2) p. 261-262
- 2022 Hoek, N.M, January 22). HvJ Satini-S: Compensatie voor het rood staan door groene regels: onrechtmatige staatssteun of noodzakelijk grondrecht? (case note) ECHR Updates
- 2022 Hoek, N.M. The shifting baseline syndrome sustaining the Anthropocene. (blog.), ClimateCultures
- 2021 Hoek, N.M. Zorgvuldigheid voor mens en milieu bij internationaal ondernemen, van vrijwilligheid naar bindende regels. Milieu & Recht, 48 (7), 568-569

2022 – present	(Senior) Editor, European Journal of Legal Studies
2024 – 2025	Head of Section EU Law, EJLS
2022 – 2023	Co-editor, Series on EU Law, Radboud Business Law Institute
2022 – 2022	Editor, debate on Frontex, Verfassungsblog

Guest Peer Reviewer for:

2022 – present	Science, the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy, Frontiers in Political Science, Landschap, Review of Comparative International and European Law (RECIEL), Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics.
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MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2024 – present	Lawyer at the Legal Working Group of the Society of Ecological Restoration Europe, SERE
2022 – present	Member of the working group on Global Sustainability and Law at the Dutch Association of Environmental Law, Vereniging voor Milieurecht

TEACHING

2024	Higher Education Teaching Certification, European University Institute (EUI) - 2 week intensive teaching course
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Courses taught:

2024 – 2025	Responsible Transnational Leadership, MA.
2022 – 2023	Untangling the EU Green Deal: EUI, LL.M/PHD.
2022 – 2023	Green EU Public Procurement Law, LL.M.
2022 – 2023	Introduction to European Law, LL.B.
2022 – 2023	Moot Court European Law: Nature conservation law, LL.B.
2022 – 2023	Thesis supervision, LLB/LL.M.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND TALKS

Selected conference talks and webinars

2026	'Light Pollution Governance (Lecture for Astronomers)', RUG.
2026	'A Positive Twist: The NRL as a vehicle out of the Dutch Nitrogen Crisis?' AgLaw Webinar: Restoring agri-food ecosystems in the EU. Webinar University of Saint Anna (Pisa).
2025	'EU Shadow Governance on light pollution', lunch seminar at University of Vienna (Universitat Wien)
2025	'Is the Nature Restoration Regulation 'fit for pollinators'? Identifying its Potential and Limitations', Implementing the Nature Restoration Regulation: legal challenges and opportunities, University of Rome Tre
2025	'Environmental Justice, Harm and Repair: Reimagining Transitional Justice's Relation to the Environment', Central European University (CEU)
2025	'Academic Complicity on the Environmental Crisis', An academic dilemma? Unpacking 'complicity in' and 'responsibility for', European University Institute (EUI), Florence
2025	Shadow Governance of Light Pollution in EU Law, Constitutionalising the Anthropocene Project, Tilburg Law School
2024	'The Future of EU Biodiversity Law: With or Without Nature Restoration?', 12th Strathclyde Postgraduate Colloquium on Environmental Law & Governance – University of Strathclyde Law School, Glasgow
2024	'The Proposed EU Nature Restoration Law: Highly Needed but Under Pressure', alumni network NOMPEL (Joint Nordic Master Programme in Environmental Law)

	and EPL students (master's degree Programme in Environmental Policy and Law), Webinar
2024	'Invisible (EU) Governance: the case of light pollution, Living Environmental Law Conference, Wageningen University (WUR)
2024	'De keten van lichtvervuiling en EU Recht: Mogelijkheden voor Herstel van de Nacht?' Dutch Association of Environmental Law (VRM), Utrecht
2023	'A Dark Spot in EU Nature Conservation Law', Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona.
2022	'Biodiversity in European Law: Synergies and conflicts within the Nature Restoration Regulation', European University Institute (EUI), Florence
2022	'Light Pollution: an under-recognised issue in environmental law', Research Centre of State and Law, Radboud University Nijmegen

Selected Workshops

2026	[Chair of 3 panels together with Edwin Alblas] 'Nature Law in Action: Empirical Perspectives on Law and Implementation' Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)
2025	'From global challenges to local solutions in the biodiversity crisis: Legal and societal implementation barriers of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation', Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research.
2025	Research Methodology Lab on Agri-Food and Environmental Law: Activism and Academia, the Department of Law, University of Brescia
2024	[Co-presented with Hendrik Schoukens] 'Human rights and wetland restoration: unexpected lessons from Klimaseniorinnen?', Wetlands, the rule of law and climate change: let's not drain the swamp? Gent University
2024	Summer school on Human Rights: the Trail of Ogwen, Academy of European Law (AEL), Florence
2023	'The Proposed Nature Restoration Law and Legal Mobilisation', 'Research Workshop on Legal protection of carbon sinks in the fight against climate change: interactions between ecosystem protection and human rights', UCD School of Sutherland, Dublin.
2023	Workshop with the Authors: the Legitimacy of EU Environmental Governance, Academy of European Law (AEL)

AWARDS

2025	Early Career Fieldwork Grant (ESR), European University Institute
2022	NUFFIC Grant for Doctoral Research and DUO Grant
2021	Piet Gilhuis Thesis Prize for LLM Thesis, Vereniging Milieurecht
2021	Certificate of Excellence, Tilburg University
2020	Certificate Honours Lab (interdisciplinary), Radboud Honours Academy

LANGUAGES

Dutch (Native), English (Native), German (Working Proficiency).