
Isabelle Larmuseau
Hendrik Schoukens
Nota Curricular
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Chairman of the Flemish Environmental Law Association
Isabelle Larmuseau was born in Ghent on 31 May 1968. She received a Licentiate degree in Law with high distinction at the Faculty of Law of Ghent University (1986-1991) and at the Faculty of Law of the University of Osnabrück (summer semester of 1991).

Since 1991 she works as a lawyer, specialised in the field of environmental law.

She was the 1993 laureate of the Mr Georges Debra Pleading Contest in Ghent, the 1993 laureate of the Southern Pleading Competition in Breda and was selected for the Flemish Pleading Jewel in 1995.

She joined the Centre for Environmental Law of the Ghent University in 1994 and became an assistant of Prof Dr Hubert Bocken and of Prof Dr Luc Lavrysen. Since April 2004, she is affiliated with the Ghent University as researcher.

She is an editorial staff member of the Tijdschrift voor Milieurecht magazine (TMR) and of Commentaar Milieurecht. Artikelsgewijze commentaar (Die Keure, Brugge) and is also a member of the advisory council for the ecoTips magazine.

Since academic year 1998-1999 she is a visiting lecturer in environmental law at the Henry van de Velde Institute in Antwerp. She also teaches within the scope of the Environmental Coordinator A/B through distance learning course organised by the Institute for Continuing Education (IVPV) of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Bioengineering of Ghent University.

Since 25 October 2002 she is a member of the executive committee of 'Forum Milieuadvocaten'.

She is the founder and chairman of the non-profit organisation 'Flemish Environmental Law Association' (VVOR), established on 18 May 2006 in order to encourage the debate on all legal matters that concern the planning and protection of the human living environment.

She is mentioned in the Legal 500 (2008): 'Practice frontrunner Isabelle Larmuseau receives praise as 'a leading individual' on the claimant side, and is viewed as 'very good on wastewater issues'. Chambers and Partners (2008) writes the following: 'Isabelle Larmuseau is "an intelligent and committed environmental lawyer" with "a very broad view of issues". Such is her knowledge and passion for this area that she "seemingly lives and breathes environmental law", which she practises with "integrity and perfect judgement".'
Nota Curricular
Hendrik Schoukens

Flemish Environmental Law Association

Hendrik Schoukens was born in Brussels on 4 June 1982. He earned his Licentiate degree in Law with high distinction at the Catholic University of Leuven in 2005.

He is currently following the Master after Master programme in Environmental Law at Ghent University on a part-time basis.

He has worked as a lawyer at the bar in Ghent since January 2006.

Abstract

In Belgium the question arises whether the implementation of the European Marine Strategy Directive will cause new challenges with regard to the protection of the marine environment. Before being able to answer this question, the concept of ‘marine protected areas’, the international and European legal obligations of Belgium (i.e. the Ramsar-Convention, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the OSPAR-Convention and the Habitats and Birds Directive) and the Belgian legal framework (the Federal Act of 20 January 1999 on the protection of the marine environment) need to be examined. Looking at the results of this study, and taking into account the content of the European Marine Strategy Directive, it appears that the marine protected areas will remain the cornerstone of a successful policy for the marine environment, which means that Belgium needs to focus more on (an effective management of) these areas. Choices will have to be made with regard to (among other things) the (non-) binding force of the environmental targets (i.e. the ecological quality standards for the marine environment) and the framework for spatial planning in sea use management.'