

PROPOSITIONS

Evaluating the Application of EU Environmental Standards in European Public Banks' Investment Projects in Third Countries: Towards Legal Environmental Indicators

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1. The reservation of the Declaration on the European Principles for the Environment, subjecting the application of European environmental standards to local conditions in third countries, contributes to legal uncertainty and poses accountability questions in relation to EPE Banks' investment activities.
2. Contemporary environmental regulation can be improved so that it is better equipped with instruments that are able if not to guarantee then at least to evaluate and provide certainty in the realisation of voluntary commitments in practice.
3. The code of conduct that becomes part of the public financial institutions' regulatory regime also becomes part of their public accountability.
4. The driving forces in the European Union give priority to the simple necessity to safeguard economic interests and to create a level playing field for trade and industry over environmental protection. Export of environmental standards forms only one – albeit important – part of the EU external policies.
5. The neutral functional theory of law fits well with the study on evaluation instrument for the application of environmental standards in third countries in the framework of investment projects. It increases the practical relevance of research assuming that law is not an isolated field, but that it must continuously and systematically respond to social changes and new scientific knowledge.
6. A meaningful evaluation of environmental performance necessitates tailor-made performance indicators.
7. New types of governance demand new forms of accountability.
8. In relation to project finance, an independent grievance panel is a better complaint mechanism than international tribunals or arbitration courts, as the former is flexible and possesses the required expertise.
9. The division into monist and dualist approach grows out of use in relation to modern legal theories.
10. It is not the task of NWO (the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) to classify research. The interdisciplinary studies suffer from the strict division of scientific areas within the organisation.
11. Generally, weather is the key aspect determining worldwide supply, affecting crop quality and influencing global coffee prices. As coffee is grown in regions most vulnerable to climate change, the climate change can have devastating effects on the existence and productivity of academic researchers.