



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Law School

Edinburgh – Copenhagen Strategic Partnership Workshop

“Recycling means never having to say you’re sorry”

A legal review of circular economy regulation

Thursday, 25th January 2024, Edinburgh Law School

Room G32, [Patersons Land](#)

09:00 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.

Organizers: Dr Katrien Steenmans, Centre for Private Governance, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, katrien.steenmans@jur.ku.dk, and Dr Michael Picard, Edinburgh Law School, The University of Edinburgh, m.picard@ed.ac.uk

Purpose: This workshop at the Edinburgh Law School, funded by The University of Edinburgh-University of Copenhagen Strategic Partnership Seed-Fund, will focus on questions including:

- How do circular economy policy proposals differ from existing regulatory frameworks on the protection of the environment?
- Do the (proposed) circular economy approaches change the emphasis or, more importantly, effect a substantive transformation of legal tools and techniques?

These questions, and many more, will explore implementation of the circular economy within key regulatory areas in the EU and UK contexts. The workshop will be followed by a celebration of the traditional [Robert Burns Night](#).

Programme:

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome & Coffee

09:30 – 12:00 Circular economy reforms: between private and public international law

[Dr Jack Barrie](#), Circular policy analyst at Chatham House, UK

Jack will focus his presentation on **Harmonized System Codes** in global supply chains. How can tracking traded goods play a facilitative role in circular economy-enabling trade flows?

[Dr Michael Picard](#), UoE Lecturer in International Environmental Law, + Research Assistants Scarlet Banner & Juan De Dios Montero, will review **circular economy initiatives in UK and EU space regulation**.

[Prof Veronica Ruiz Abou-Nigm](#), Personal Chair of Private International Law, UoE
Veronica will assess the **role of private international law** as a governance tool for the global transition to a CE, with a focus on the textile industry.

To be confirmed: A Scottish perspective

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch served by the Edinburgh University catering services

13:00 – 15:00 A turn to CE: Implications for private actors

[Prof Vibe Ulfbeck](#), Head of CEPRI, UCPH, working on **liability and contract law** dimensions of the CE concept, will highlight the need for further research into private law dimensions of the circular economy. Extended producer responsibility is an example of some of the critical issues that private law can and needs to address.

[Dr Katrien Steenmans](#), postdoc on the [Circular Supply Chains \(CirCus\) project](#) investigating the legal risks of adopting **extended producer responsibility** and liability within private law and waste law to promote circular economies.

To be confirmed: another University of Copenhagen legal scholar

15:00 – 16:00 Agenda-setting for future collaborations

16:00 – 18:00 Break before Burns Night

18:00 Burns Night