

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SEMINAR

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE: THE  
EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE**

**SPEAKER:**

**Professor Nicolas de Sadeleer, Marie Curie Chair, University of Oslo and Professor of Environmental Law at the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis and Institut D'Etudes Européennes de l'Université Catholique de Louvain**

**DATE:** Tuesday 5 July, 2005, 5.00 - 7.15 pm

**VENUE:** Minter Ellison Conference Room, Level 13,  
Faculty of Law, 173 Phillip Street, Sydney

**CONVENOR:** Professor Ben Boer

**FACULTY OF LAW**  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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## Implementation of the Precautionary Principle: the European Experience

Nicolas de Sadeleer is the holder of the Marie Curie Chair at the University of Oslo where he is in charge of an EU-sponsored research programme on risk and precaution. Nicolas de Sadeleer is also a Professor of environmental law at the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis and at the Institut D'Etudes Européennes de l'Université Catholique de Louvain and post-doctoral research fellow at the Faculty of Law of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. From 1998 to 2003, he was Visiting Professor at Université at the Universities Paris I, Paris XII, Lille-Charles de Gaulle and at Pontifica Universidad Catolica del Peru. He was one of the holders of the 8th Gleverbel Chair in European Studies, co-lecturing in cooperation with Prof. J. Tickner.

His other professional experience includes serving as a Director from 1990 to 2003 of the Environmental Law Center at the Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis and as a legal adviser for various environmental departments in Belgium, France and Luxemburg. In addition, he was a consultant for the Institut royal des sciences naturelles in Brussels in 1988 and was a barrister in Brussels from 1988 to 1990.

His areas of research and teaching include EC and International Environmental Law, Health and Consumer Law, free movement of goods, Belgian environmental law, subjects on which he publishes and speaks extensively. He was the Vice-President of the Belgian Environmental Law Association from 2000-2002.

He has published widely on environmental issues. In particular, he has published more than 130 articles in law journals in Belgium, France, UK, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, Spain and Brazil. Besides, he published seven books among which is *Environmental Principles: from Political Slogans to Legal Rules* (Oxford: OUP, 2002) 433 p.

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## Summary of the Presentation

The globalisation of the economy and the rise of new technologies characteristic of post-industrialised society have caused a new generation of risks to emerge (CFCs, POPs, GMOs, BSE, greenhouse gases, hormone-disrupting chemicals, electromagnetic fields, health claims linked to phthalates in PVC toys and endocrine disruptors, among other issues). Presenting unique challenges to the ability of science to anticipate and prevent harm, these 'technological risks' are fundamentally different from earlier types of risks. In this regard, the precautionary principle has been invoked in Europe increasingly often by decision-makers, in particular at the EU level. Vigorous debate has taken place over the last few years as to the extent to which the precautionary principle could be invoked by administrative authorities with the view to fostering their environmental and health protection decisions. Despite the success of this principle in the fields of national, EC, and international law, its outlines are far from clear. Clearly the principle must be understood within a broader decision-making scheme.

Against this background, Nicolas de Sadeleer has been analysing, the implementation of the principle in Europe. He has published several books and articles on this topic and has organized more than twenty seminars and conferences on this issue in a number of European countries.

Date: Tuesday 5 July, 2005

Time: 5.00 - 7.15 pm  
(Refreshments/Registration from 5.00-5.30 pm)  
Lecture commences at 5.30 pm.

Venue: Minter Ellison Conference Room, Level 13,  
Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, 173-175 Phillip  
Street, Sydney

Cost: \$90 (GST free)  
Full time student rate: \$45 (GST free)

# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SEMINAR

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