

## Conference Programme

# Corporate Sustainability in Action: Advancing EU Accession for Candidate Countries

18 February 2025 – Wageningen University

Registration [here](#)

The event marks the launch of **EU Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Corporate Sustainability and Human Rights Law**, established within Wageningen University Law group, with focal points in Ukraine (Yaroslav Mudriyi National Law University, Kharkiv) and Serbia (Belgrade Centre for Human Rights).

The Centre is funded by the European Union with the grant agreement number 101175946. The event is co-funded by the **MSCA4Ukraine project on Solidarity as Responsible Business Conduct: beyond Corporate Respect for Human Rights**.



**Tuesday 18 February 2025**

**Omnia building:** [Hoge Steeg 2, 6708 PH Wageningen](#)

**Auditorium and online**

All times are CET

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| 9.30 – 10.00  | Coffee and tea  |
| 10.00 – 10.10 | Welcome and presentation of the <a href="#">Centre of Excellence</a> , <b>Nadia Bernaz</b> , Associate Professor and Director of the Centre, Wageningen University & Research – Law Group.  |
| 10.10 – 11.30 | <b>Panel discussion 1: Navigating uncertainty: the EU Corporate Sustainability Framework and Candidate Countries</b><br><br>Focus: To understand the current state of the corporate sustainability framework debates within the EU and their implications for candidate countries, focusing on key uncertainties and potential paths forward. |

**Heidi Hautala**, Expert on sustainability and corporate accountability; Vice President of the European Parliament 2017-24, member of the High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of the War in Ukraine

**Lara Wolters**, Dutch Member of the European Parliament (to be confirmed)

**Jeroen Verburg**, Senior Policy Officer, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, Trade Policy and Economic Governance Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**Alexandra Kuxova**, Team Leader, Corporate sustainability and responsibility, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Moderated by: **Nadia Bernaz**.

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee and tea

11.45 – 13.00 **Panel discussion 2: The implications of the EU Corporate Sustainability Framework in Candidate Countries: Challenges and Opportunities**

Focus: To identify and discuss the concrete challenges and opportunities that the EU Corporate Sustainability Framework presents for candidate countries, focusing on practical implications and strategies for implementation.

**Lyra Jakuleviciene**, Dean of the Law School at Mykolas Romeris University, Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

**Siniša Milatovic**, Business and Human Rights Specialist, UNDP

**Maryna Kupchuk**, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Secretary of the OECD National Contact Point

**Christine Kaufmann**, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, Professor of Public Law, European and Public International Law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zurich

**Sonja Tošković**, Director of Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

Moderated by: **Olena Uvarova**, MSCA4Ukraine Postdoc, Research Coordinator, Law Group Wageningen University

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.15 **Academic and practitioner panel 1 The EU Corporate Sustainability Framework: Implications beyond the EU**

**Martijn Scheltema**, Full Professor, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam: **Model contractual clauses.**

**Otto Hospes**, Associate Professor, Public Administration and Policy Group, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University: **Corporate governance of the making and implementation of EU green laws: three unexposed junctions.**

**Eva Gerritse**, PAX, project lead business, conflict & human rights: **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence in conflict-affected areas.**

Moderated by: **Chiara Macchi**, Assistant Professor of Law and Coordinator of Education at Wageningen University & Research – Law Group

15.15 – 15.45 Coffee and tea

15.45 – 17.00 **Academic and practitioner panel 2: Corporate Sustainability in EU Candidate Countries: Roadmaps for Government, Businesses and NGOs**

**Kateryna Buriakovska**, Assistant Professor, Yaroslav Mudryi National University (Kharkiv, Ukraine) and Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg: **Towards effective implementation of the EU CSDDD in Ukraine: the roadmap for the government**

**Sonja Tošković**, Director of Belgrade Centre for Human Rights: **Main findings of the National Baseline Assessment on BHR in Serbia**

**Daria Nagaivska**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Aalto Business School (Finland): **Preparedness of companies in Ukraine for accessing EU market and complying with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive**

Moderated by: **Olena Uvarova** and **Nadia Bernaz**

17.00 – 18.00 **Drinks**

## Other details

### 1. Conference Venue

The venue for the conference is the **Omnia building**, located on Wageningen University campus.

Address:

Hoge Steeg 2, Building 105  
6708 PH Wageningen

Here is the [map](#).

## 2. Local Transportation

### Public transport

From Schiphol Airport, a train leaves every 30 minutes to Ede-Wageningen station. Take the intercity towards Nijmegen and get off at Ede-Wageningen station. Travel time from Schiphol Airport to Ede-Wageningen station is about 65 minutes. From Ede-Wageningen station you can take the bus to Wageningen Campus. For example, take line 103 or 303 and get off at the **Campus/Atlas stop**.

Prefer to go by cab? A ride from the train station to Wageningen Campus costs approximately 30 euros.

We recommend using the [9292 OV travel planner](#) app or website when planning your trip.

### Parking

Please see the available parking spots on [this map of the campus](#). We will receive a parking link/qr code so that can be forwarded to the guests who need to park at the Unilever garage. **Let us know if you need a parking.**

*A parking space for persons with disability is available at the left side of the Omnia building. If you need specific assistance, please contact [visitomnia@wur.nl](mailto:visitomnia@wur.nl) upon arrival or get in touch with the organisers of this Conference.*

## 3. Meals and restaurant recommendations

Beverages (tea, coffee, water, juice...) will be available during the conference.

For the evening, here are some recommendations:

- [Ivo's Bread & Pizza: for slices of pizza](#) (inexpensive but still nice)
- [Eetcafé H41](#) (typical Dutch atmosphere, medium price range)

## 4. Contact persons

For inquiries and assistance, please feel free to contact Dr. Olena Uvarova, E-Mail: [lena.uvarova@wur.nl](mailto:lena.uvarova@wur.nl).