

CAMPINS ERITJA, Mar and FERNÁNDEZ-PONS, Xavier (eds.). *Deploying the European Green Deal. Protecting the Environment Beyond the EU Borders* (Routledge, London/New York, 2024)

The European Green Deal is the EU's growth strategy, consisting of a package of policy and legislative initiatives aimed at setting the EU on the path towards a green transition, with the ultimate goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. One of the key elements is its external dimension, as it should guide its foreign policy, not only through climate diplomacy and development cooperation, but also through normative instruments that defend its values and objectives, with the aim of promoting environmental protection on a global scale. Many of the initiatives that have been adopted will therefore have an external impact or effect, with an extraterritorial scope, which require an in-depth analysis from a legal perspective, as is achieved in this excellent book made up of a series of interesting contributions by relevant international experts. The research work is carried out within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Environmental Law and has been coordinated by two of the national scholars in international environmental law and international economic law, which has provided a magnificent academic tandem for the tutelage of this outstanding research team.

The work is divided into fourteen chapters. It begins with introductory remarks by the book's coordinators, who examine the objectives of the *EGD* and the EU's competences for its implementation, as well as providing some terminological clarifications regarding the scope of its external dimension and the notion of extraterritoriality. This is followed by a set of chapters that address some sectoral initiatives that are particularly relevant for the development of its international dimension. Professor Xavier Fernández-Pons writes the first of these, entitled *Conditioning access to the European Union market on carbon footprint: the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism*, highlighting, after examining the compatibility of this mechanism with the rules of the WTO and the international climate change regime, the problems and difficulties in promoting sustainability on a global scale through unilateral trade measures. This controversy is also present in the field of maritime transport, as highlighted by Marta Abegón Novella in the work *EU regulatory action on maritime emissions: Unilaterally protecting the environment beyond IMO's global strategy*, which examines the initiatives within this international organisation, their legality under the Law of the Sea and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Biodiversity loss is the subject of the following two contributions. Susana Borràs-Pentinat, with the study *The 2030 Biodiversity Strategy: The EU's international commitment and responsibility to reverse biodiversity loss*, analyses the actions adopted by the EU at European and international level, assessing whether this is a model for the conservation and sustainable use of resources that can be extrapolated beyond its borders, while Márcia Rodrigues Bertoldi, with the work *Understanding the deforestation initiative for European trade in products from the Brazilian Amazon*, analyses the extraterritorial effects of this measure, with special reference to its impact on this South American country.

Three papers complete this first section. The co-editor of the book presents an investigation entitled *Zero Chemical Pollution: A real new impetus for change?* In the author's opinion, this is a notable and commendable initiative, although, due to its generality and lack of definition, it runs the risk of ending up being a rhetorical exercise. Her colleague from the University of Barcelona, Xavier Pons Rafols, with the study *Farm to Fork: Strengths and Weaknesses of a European Strategy for a Global Transition towards Fair, Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems*, assesses, among other issues, the potential international impact of this instrument to promote a global transition towards safer and more sustainable food systems; while Gastón Medici-Colombo examines the tensions between investment protection forecasts and new climate objectives in the chapter *The European Green Deal and the Energy Charter Treaty: Chronicle of a Breakup Foretold?*.

The following five chapters bring together a set of contributions on cross-cutting aspects of the Green Deal that have an external impact. This part of the book begins with Teresa Fajardo del Castillo's research, *From Climate diplomacy to Green Deal diplomacy*, which explains the changes in this fundamental tool of external action, with which it seeks to reaffirm itself as a global normative power, as well as examining the new mechanisms within the framework of free trade and association agreements. It continues with the work of Ezgi Uysal and Willem A. Janssen, *The European Green Deal and Public Procurement Law: Its Extraterritorial Reach beyond the EU's Borders*, which explains the changes in public procurement following the publication of the Green Deal and its effects on external operators. Gonzalo Larrea, in the paper *The European Green Deal Investment Plan. The External Impact of Mobilizing Climate Finance with an Experimentalist Design*, presents its financial dimension. It is an experimental model, with the participation of the actors involved in the implementation of the EGD, which could be exported to other international environmental regimes. The study by Alfonso González Bondia, *Business, Human Rights and the Environment: From Corporate Social Responsibility to Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence*, deals mainly with the legal regulation that introduces due diligence obligations and their extraterritorial effects. And it is completed with the chapter *Implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation as a cornerstone of the European Green Deal*, by Alexandre Peñalver i Cabré, which analyses the most effective mechanisms for promoting compliance with environmental regulations, with special attention to the system of information provision.

In my opinion, this is a very complete research work, which aims, as the co-editors indicate in the final chapter written together with Teresa Fajardo, to reflect on the EU's capacity to promote the essence of the EGD beyond the EU's borders. My sincere congratulations on the final result, which is yet another example of the presence of strong research teams in this field at our university. I therefore consider this to be a reference work of essential reading for all those who study international law, EU law and international relations in environmental matters.

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