



IMPEL Next Generation Conference

26 September 2018, Zwolle, the Netherlands

08.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 09.15	Welcome and opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chris Dijkens, Chair of IMPEL, welcome and opening to the conference ▪ Welcome speech by the host, Mr. Bort Koelewijn, Mayor of the city of Kampen and Chair of the 'Omgevingsdienst IJsselland' ▪ Dr. Mrs. Annemieke Traag, Member of the Provincial Executive Council of Overijssel for the Environment, Energy, Sustainability and European Affairs & Member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR). She will give an introduction on the key-positions of the Regions in meeting global, European and national environmental goals, with a special focus on the role of permitting, inspection and enforcement and the necessity of cooperation among all authorities working in this field.
09.15 – 09.45	Key note speech on the state of the environment in Europe and the connection with enforcement and compliance <p>Paul McAleavey, Head of Coordination and Strategy Programme of the European Environment Agency (EEA)</p> <p><i>Implementation of environmental policies and legislation has delivered substantial benefits for the functioning of Europe's ecosystems, for the health and living standards of its citizens, and it created economic opportunities. Despite the improvements of recent decades, the challenges that Europe faces today are considerable. Quoting the European Environment Agency: "We have 35 years to ensure that we live on a sustainable planet by 2050. This may seem like a distant future, but to achieve our goal, we need to act now. We need our actions and investments to be even more ambitious and more coherent. Many of the decisions we make today will determine how are going to live in 2050." How can the IMPEL network support these actions?</i></p>



09.45 – 10.00

Environmental Compliance Assurance Initiative (ECA) and the role of IMPEL - a view from the European Commission

Hans Lopatta, Policy Officer- Legal Issues, European Commission - Directorate General for Environment - Compliance & Better Regulation

The political landscape is changing with a sharpening focus on implementation and enforcement. New initiatives such as the Environmental Compliance Assurance Initiative and its Action Plan have been taken to support enhanced implementation. IMPEL as a European network of practitioners aims to play an important role in this. The IMPEL network therefore takes this opportunity to re-position itself to ensure it is fit for purpose for the coming decades as the 'Next Generation IMPEL'.

The European Commission will share its view on the role IMPEL is expected to play in ECA initiative and its Action Plan.

10.00 – 10.45

Session 1: Innovation and next generation compliance and enforcement (session chair Horst Buether – Federal Republic of Germany)

Environmental law enforcement may be supported by valuable tools and methodologies for information gathering, storing, managing and assisting the activities in the field. Innovate measures will help practitioners to carry out their roles more efficiently and effectively. IMPEL continues to identify new techniques employed by authorities, to assess potential uses and users and to understand how they can be accessed and applied.

Joël Davidse, Analyst GIS and Remote Sensing, Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands.

'Moving towards a more data driven approach in the daily work of the Inspectorate, for example by making use of satellite data and/or using drone technology.'

David Aires, EMPACT EnviCrime Team Manager, OCLAESP, EnviCrimeNet

Innovative technologies as used by the police (and others) will be presented on how these help them in evidence findings and combatting environmental crimes.

Prof. Giuseppe Sgorbati, Direttore Tecnico Scientifico
Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente – ARPA Lombardia, Italy.

How our work can be supported by and take advantage of innovation. Examples of innovative means in different areas will be shared, such as earth observation and drones, as well as the Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM).

10.45 – 11.15 : Coffee break



11.15 – 12.15

Session 2: Building capacity among environmental practitioners – “Doing what we do, but better” (session chair Tony Liebrechts – the Netherlands)

IMPEL already provides a range of opportunities to increase the skillset and knowledge of staff involved in IMPEL activities by offering seminars, best practice meetings, conferences and technical workshops. IMPEL wants to take these efforts to the next level by developing a robust strategy supporting not only our direct members, but also other national, regional and local authorities. In this respect IMPEL would like to learn from other organisations on how they developed and implemented such a strategy and plan. Linked to this, it is also IMPEL’s ambition to develop a knowledge and information centre to facilitate the collection, access and maintenance of its tools, including the use of new techniques.

Progress project ‘training and capacity building’ - Lorenzo Bonardi, dirigente U.O. Sviluppo del Sistema Ambientale, Direzione Tecnico Scientifica, Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell’Ambiente – ARPA Lombardia – projectleader ‘Training and capacity building’.

The need for upgrading skills and capacity in inspectorates and in agencies and authorities responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental legislation was recognised in IMPEL’s position paper on Environmental Compliance Assurance. IMPEL is taking the lead in identifying the professional skills-sets necessary for carrying out environmental inspections, supported by DG ENV of the European Commission’. To that end, IMPEL will deliver an inventory of professional skills-sets and training needs for environmental inspectors and a strategic document in December 2018.

Development of Massive Open Online Courses - Ms. Viire Viss, Senior Auditor at the National Audit Office of Estonia, EUROSAL WGEA

EUROSAL has a long-lasting experience with the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC’s). In this session their experience will be shared and discussed on how they developed and implemented their capacity building strategy and plan, including MOOC’s.

Mr Stefano Failla, Head of Operations Department at European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).

CEPOL will share their experiences with the development and implementation of a capacity building strategy and plan.

Rob Kramers, Expert at Knowledge Centre InfoMil, Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

A showcase of an IMPEL online tool on the inspection and permitting of Industrial Emissions Directive’ provisions.

12.15 – 13.30

: Family photo followed by lunch and networking



13.30 – 14.15

Session 3: IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) and National Peer Review Initiatives (NPRI), 'opportunities for development' (session chair - Elisabete dos Santos Vieira - Portugal (Azores))

The IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) has demonstrated its value for almost two decades as a powerful instrument facilitating the sharing of expertise through a peer-to-peer approach. A growing list of implemented 'opportunities for development' in host organisations bears testament to its success. The review mechanism has evolved significantly; however, the challenges faces by the 21st century regulators require further evolution of the model and broadening the scope to include the development of intra-national peer reviews to support regional and local efforts. Now we see the first initiatives for National Peer Review Initiatives (NPRI), for instance in Italy and the Netherlands. This gives opportunities to adapt both schemes (IRI and NPRI) more to each other, to evaluate and further develop so it is fit for the future by having a robust (inter) national scheme that supports the improvement of our work, processes and organizations. The state of play of IRI and NPRI, with examples from Italy and the Netherlands, will be presented followed by a short plenary discussion to gather input for future work.

Patricia Weenink, Province Overijssel, the Netherlands, IRI Ambassador

An introduction will be given to the state of play of the IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI).

A report will be given about interesting experiences with the NPRI-schemes in Italy and the Netherlands and opportunities for further development of this initiative by:

Fabio Carella, ARPA Lombardia (IT), Head of Departments of Como and Varese, Italy and Pieter-Jan van Zanten, Director of the Regional Environmental Protection Agency IJsselland.

14.15 – 15.00

Session 4: Coordinated Enforcement Actions (session chair Dimitris Dermatas - Greece)

The story so far – Coordinated EU wide Enforcement Actions (EA) as proven to be a very successful formula for controlling trans frontier shipments of waste. These actions will continue under the 5-year SWEAP project. How IMPEL can use the 'EA model' and replicate this to other fields of work, like Nature, Water and Industry. IMPEL's experiences and a view from the European Commission.

Enforcement Actions (EA): what have we done so far and what is the outcome, as well as a foreword look on the 5-year SWEAP project - Katie Olley, Senior Environment Protection Officer, Producer Compliance and Waste Shipment Unit, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

A view of the Commission on Enforcement Actions and how the EA model can be used in other fields of work - Marina de Gier, coordinator at the Waste Division of the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management in the Netherlands and IMPEL Expert Team Leader Waste/TFS.



15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break and networking
15.30 – 16.15	<p>Session 5: Citizen Science (session chair Olivera Topalov – Republic of Serbia)</p> <p><i>Citizen science encompasses many ways how citizens are involved in science through specific programmes and the use of suitable instruments, such as apps. Environmental protection is an area of great interest because of the diffuse and continuous contribution that society can offer complementary to compliance monitoring and enforcement carried out by environmental authorities. In addition, the participants of citizens in such programmes strengthens the relationship with the authorities from the point of social responsibility and transparency.</i></p> <p>'Citizen science' is the process of involving the public at large into scientific practices and research - Luca Demicheli: Head of International Affairs and Institutional Relations at the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research – ISPRA</p> <p><i>'Citizen science is the process of involving the public at large into scientific practices and research. It is, logically, a complex process encompassing a large variety of disciplines, communication tools, geographical dimensions and cultures. There is not one single approach or method, and each project has to be assessed and designed specifically'.</i></p> <p>INCOLAB - Florin Homerean: Commissar at the National Environmental Guard in Romania</p> <p><i>'INCOLAB', an innovative collaboration management approach of Natura 2000 sites from the Danube border area, available for smartphones, tablets and computers that allows citizens to report cases that might affect protected habitats or species in a certain protected area to responsible authorities.</i></p>
16.15 – 17.00	<p>Session 6: Agriculture (session chair Ana Garcia – Portugal and Vice Chair of IMPEL)</p> <p><i>Agriculture represents one of the major assets of Europe: it secures safe food, employments, welfare, and countryside management among others. Nevertheless, agricultural activities also create pressure on the environment components soil, air and water, if not well managed. Many approaches can be implemented to address agricultural environmental matters; from the promotion of sustainable farming, to the control of elements connected to agriculture such as chemicals and waste.</i></p> <p>Paolo Giandon, Head of Soil Monitoring and Remediation Service of the Environmental Protection Agency of Veneto Region (ARPAV)</p> <p><i>Agriculture is one of the most relevant activities in Europe, and it guarantees safe food supply and welfare from the economic and social point of views.</i></p>



Nevertheless, agriculture is recognized as one of the most relevant environmental pressured elements in Europe. European institutions, establishing the 'Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum', reserved a specific space for this sector, with the objective to preparing guidance documents on good practices in environmental compliance assurance in rural areas, in relation to land and water. The contribution will present the initiative and its perspectives.

'Nitrate diffuse pollution and agriculture: experiences in IMPEL' - Annette Dodensig Pedersen: Environmental Protection Agency, of the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food

'IMPEL developed in past years many projects aimed at tackling Nitrate Pollution issues related to agriculture. The approach of the projects was often based on cooperation between farmers and Inspectorates and best practice sharing, underlining the importance of sustainability of agriculture in the framework of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)'

17.00 – 17.30

Conclusions and closing of the conference