

JM Distinguished Speaker Programme 2023



Introduction to JM Distinguished Speaker Programme:

The meeting was convened as part of the Jean Monnet Chair (EUC-LAMP) Project SIU, with the objective of hosting the JM Distinguished Speaker Programme. Dr. Justine Bendel, a Marie Curie Research Fellow from the University of Copenhagen, was the distinguished speaker for this event. The session aimed to explore 'The role of LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry) activities in the EU plans for accounting of GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions.' The online Zoom session had participants from diverse backgrounds.

Opening Address by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur:

Shashikala Gurpur, representing SLS, Pune, took the stage to extend a warm welcome to the participants. She shared insights into SLS, Pune, highlighting its courses, including those focused on EU law, and its establishment in 2009. She emphasized SLS's commitment to sustainability and its engagement with various NGOs for capacity building. She discussed how the college incorporates Jean Monnet Chair and initiatives done under the chair. She explained how under the chair, the institution offers its faculty/ researchers/ students the opportunity to develop skills and philosophy through a 10-credit course offer by the institution. She went on to discuss the activities planned like the sustainability initiatives, round table conference, etc for capacity building.

Presentation by Dr. Justine Bendel:

Dr. Justine Bendel commenced her presentation by introducing herself and her extensive research background. With a PhD from the University of Edinburgh and a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in Laws from the University of Geneva, her expertise in international law and governance of forests was evident.

In her presentation, Dr. Bendel covered following key points/ topics:

The speaker started her speech by telling the importance of forests from the climate change perspective. Since 2021, the regulations were passed for EU member states for achieving carbon neutrality.

She went to discuss the meaning of forest and LULUCF, it includes five different land categories. She emphasised on the problems associated with forest and how many years it takes for a crop land to become a forest land. The emissions from agricultural land are not accounted in climate change while those from crop land are (politically sensitive issue; outside this regulation)

- An overview of LULUCF activities and their pivotal role in the EU's strategy for accounting GHG emissions.
- Insight into how LULUCF activities fit within the broader EU climate regime.
- The significance of EU Regulation 2018 as the primary tool for accounting for managed forest land.
- An overview of the negotiation process that led to the establishment of the LULUCF Regulation.
- Discussion on the inclusion of biomass within the LULUCF Regulation.
- Addressing the critical issue of leakages within this context.
- Legal aspects and potential litigation related to LULUCF activities.
- Consideration of future interactions with other components of the EU climate regime.

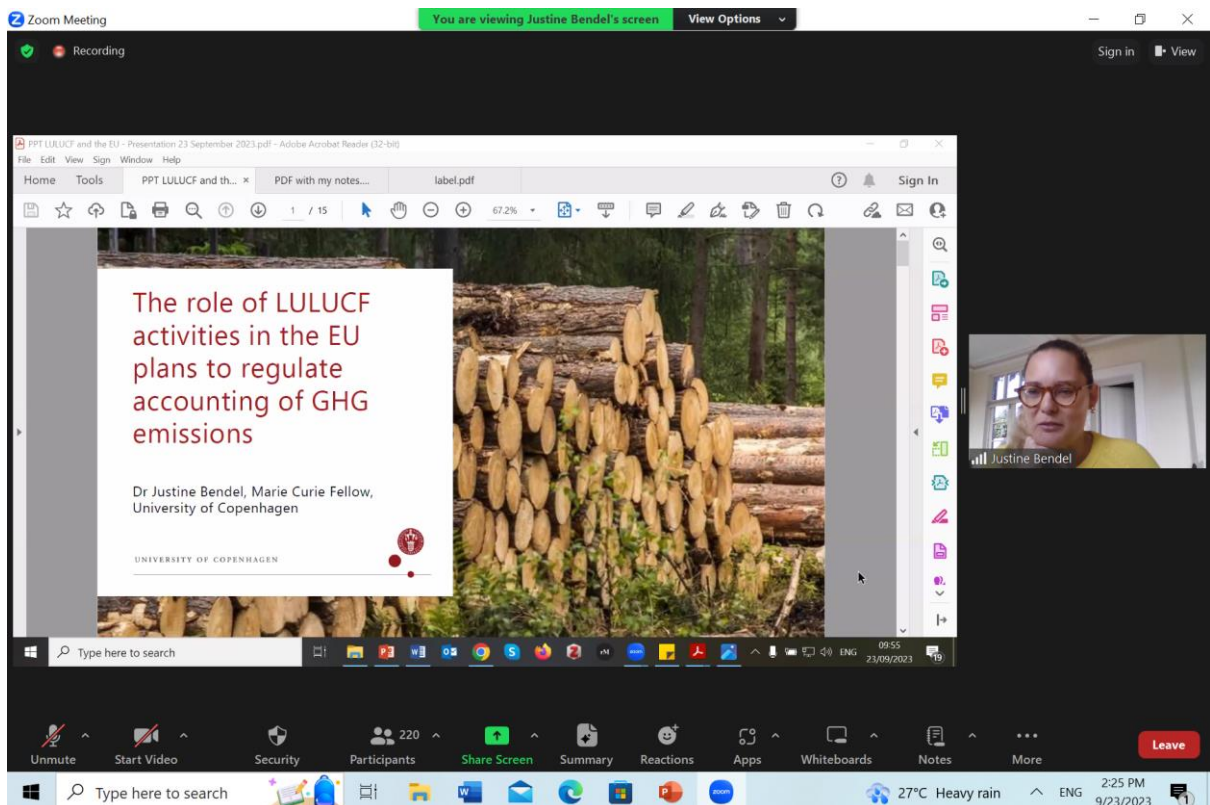
Following the presentation, Dr. Bendel engaged with the audience in an open question and answer session. Topics included her views on the recent global biofuel alliance and strategies for adapting LULUCF policies and initiatives to shifting biodiversity patterns while ensuring the preservation of critical ecosystems.

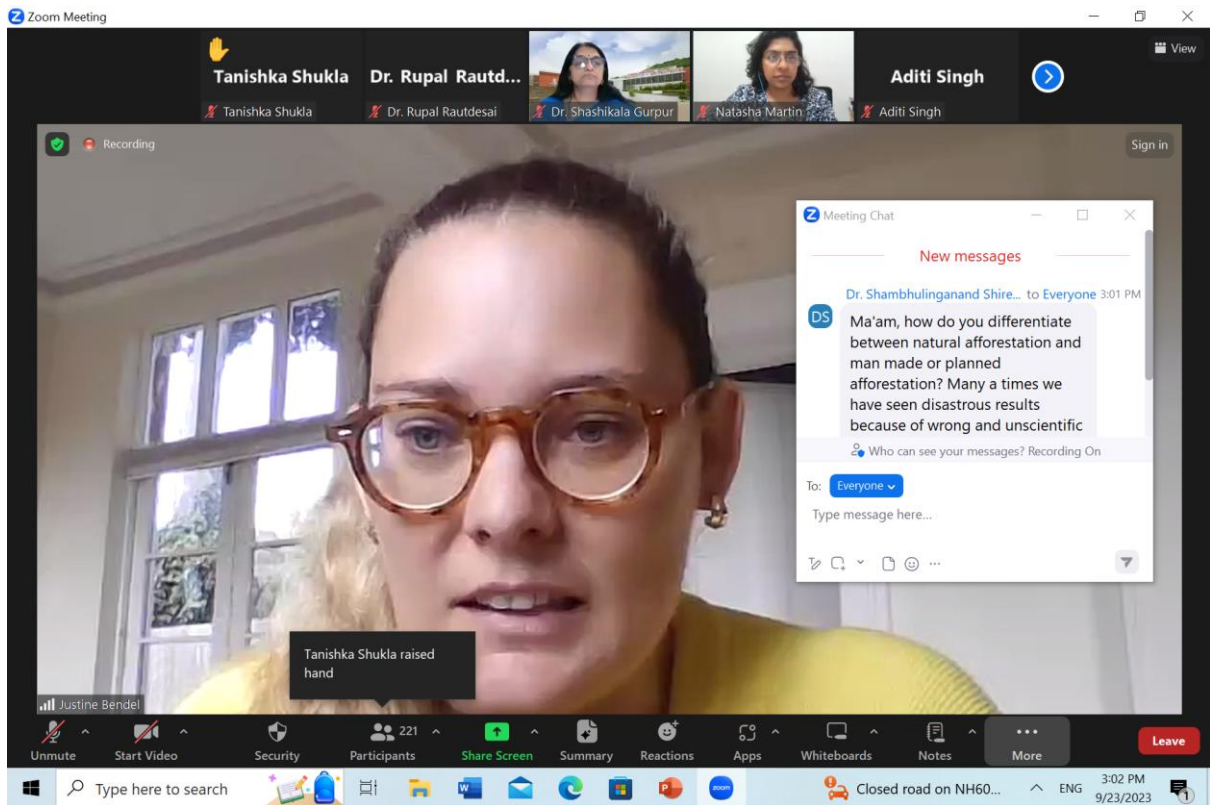
Vote of Thanks by Prof. Natasha Martin:

The meeting concluded with Natasha Maam expressing her heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Justine Bendel for her informative and enlightening presentation. She also extended her thanks to Shashikala Gurpur and all the attendees for their active participation in the event.



Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, *Fulbright Scholar*, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, *Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP)*, Co-funded by *Erasmus* welcoming Dr. Justine Bendel a Marie Curie Research Fellow from the University of Copenhagen





Dr. Justine Bendel addressing on achieving carbon neutrality