



International Class Action Conference

## Call for papers ‘Collective actions on Environmental, Social and Governance topics’

**When: workshop on Thursday 21 (afternoon) until Friday 22 (morning) November 2024, Where: Amsterdam, venue to be determined**

**Paper outline deadline (for selection purposes): 1 July 2024**

**Paper deadline if selected (first draft for discussion): 1 November 2024**

**Paper publication in journal (if accepted): early 2025**

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As a follow-up from the 4th International Class Action Conference in Amsterdam, 30 June - 1 July 2022, the University of Amsterdam, Tilburg University and Haifa University are jointly organizing a workshop on large scale collective actions on Environmental, Social and Governance topics. The workshop is intended to act as a forum for the sharing of experiences and knowledge. In an increasingly interconnected world, such opportunities for international scholars and practitioners to come together and discuss notes and views on the development of collective redress in their jurisdictions, are more relevant than ever. We choose to organize this as a workshop centered around academic papers in order to both give serious substance to the forum and to convert the exchange of knowledge into lasting contributions in the shape of publications in a special issue journal.

Specifically ESG-related class actions are becoming more prominent as shareholders, consumers, and activists increasingly hold companies accountable for their impact on the environment, their governance practices, and social responsibilities. The legal landscape around ESG issues is rapidly evolving and ESG issues intersect with law, business, environmental science, and ethics. The approach to ESG issues varies significantly across different jurisdictions, reflecting diverse legal, cultural, and regulatory landscapes. The workshop aims to explore these variations, offering insights into the global challenges and opportunities in litigating ESG-related class actions.

We invite scholars and practitioners to submit a paper, to be discussed in the workshop and published afterwards in Journal Mass Claims (Den Hollander). The call for papers is open to any legal or interdisciplinary research paper on large scale collective actions in the field of Environmental, Social and Governance topics. The E, S and G in ESG will receive separate attention in the workshop. Papers ideally focus on one of these three topics.

As an indication for the ESG-focus of the papers, we suggest the following topics:

### *Environmental:*

Papers on environmental collective actions could for example focus on representation and legitimacy, on public interest litigation, on communities as claimants, on access to justice or on the available remedies, including alternative remedies and on damages as a means of financing collective actions in the environmental field.

### *Social*

Papers on collective actions in the social field could discuss actions representing consumers, workers or privacy related actions. Of particular interest in this field could be collective actions versus representation through unions or consumer organizations; the use of collective tort actions in the social field as a means of private enforcement in relation the goals of tort law; or the suitability of collective actions for mass redress of non-material damages.

### *Governance*

Collective actions are also widely used in governance cases, especially representing investors in public companies. Of interest could be whether and how such actions promote good governance, or to which extent large institutional investors such as pension funds owe fiduciary duties to take part in such actions, or whether actions representing consumer-investors merit special treatment.

### **Other requirements for papers and selection criteria**

The paper should be of academic quality and should be interesting for an international public in the field of law. Inter-disciplinary papers are welcome, but should be relevant to legal research and/or practice in the field of collective actions. Guideline for length of the paper is about 5000 words. We select papers based on the quality of the outline, the match with the subject of the workshop, variety in participants and variety in subjects.

### **Discussants**

We select a discussant for each paper. The discussant receives the first draft before the workshop and discusses the paper in depth during the workshop, before opening the floor to comments from the other participants.

### **Timeline**

- April 2024: Call for papers circulated
- 1 July 2024: Outline of the paper (proposal with central topic, short abstract and general outline, in about 500 words) to be submitted for selection purposes. A longer version or even full paper may also be submitted.
- 14 July 2024: papers selected by the organization, based on the outline.
- 1 November 2024: first version submitted by participants; sent to discussants and all other participants.
- 15 November 2024: discussants send a few points of comment/critique to participant.
- Thursday 21 November afternoon - Friday 22 Nov 2024 morning: workshop
- 15 January: participants submit final version for publication
- Early 2025: in principle publication in special issue of Journal Mass Claims (<https://int.denhollander.info/tijdschriften/mass-claims>). Publication is however not

guaranteed. The journal has a final say over the publication decision and there might be additional criteria for publication, such as a European angle. Publication in the Journal Mass Claims is not mandatory for those who wish to publish elsewhere.

### **Workshop program on 21-22 November**

*Thursday 21 November:*

- Lunch, followed by workshop sessions.
- Drinks and dinner

*Friday 22 November*

- Morning workshop session
- Lunch and closing

### **Costs**

Participation in the workshop is free of charge. Lunch, drinks and dinner are provided by the organization. Next to participants who prepare a paper and discussants, we invite a few other participants on invitation-only basis.

Participants who are selected to present a paper, especially young and talented academics, can request financial support for travel and stay if their own university or employer is not able to extend support. Please indicate when submitting your outline whether you wish to request support, with an indication of the needed amount of support. We decide on this request simultaneously with selecting paper outlines. Whether you request support or not is not a factor in the selection process.

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. dr. A.A.H. van Hoek, dr. A.L. Jonkers (both University of Amsterdam); prof. dr. I.N. Tzankova, P. Gil-Lemstra (both Tilburg University); dr. A. Flavian (University of Haifa).

### **Contact**

For questions and submitting paper outlines, contact Aart Jonkers, [jonkers@uva.nl](mailto:jonkers@uva.nl)