
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

SustainEUorPlanet Seminar Cycle

**Litigation in International Investment Law
Concerning Environmental Issues**

***Elements of International Investment Law and
Arbitration***

Prof. Gian Maria Farnelli, Associate Professor, Member of the
SustainEUorPlanet Research Team, University of Bologna
27 April 2026, h.13-15 (CEST), Aula A BELMELORO, Via Andreatta, 8, Bologna

***The Protection of Environmental Interests in
International Law***

Prof. Gian Maria Farnelli, Associate Professor, Member of the
SustainEUorPlanet Research Team, University of Bologna
6 May 2026 h.13-15 (CEST), Aula A BELMELORO, Via Andreatta, 8, Bologna

Environmental Issues in Investment Arbitration

Prof. Gian Maria Farnelli, Associate Professor, Member of the
SustainEUorPlanet Research Team, University of Bologna
12 May 2026 h.13-15 (CEST), Aula A BELMELORO, Via Andreatta, 8, Bologna

Abstract: The module “Litigation in International Investment Law Concerning Environmental Issues” will address how environmental issues are protected in investment law and arbitration. The module will be divided into three lectures. The first and second lectures will present the basic elements of the international legal framework concerning foreign investment and environmental interests, from the standpoint both of normative development and arbitration and adjudication. The third lecture will focus on how environmental concern enters investment arbitration, with a view to demonstrating that those concerns may be used both by claimants, as elements supporting breaches of standards of protection, and by respondents, as defensive arguments or counterclaims.

Prof. Gian Maria Farnelli: Gian Maria Farnelli, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of International Law at the Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna; visiting lecturer at the University of Antwerp and the University of Olomouc. He has been entrusted with teaching modules of International Law in English and Italian at the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna.

He has been a member of the Italian Legal team in the *M/V Norstar* (ITLOS Case No. 25), the Questions of jurisdictional immunities of the State and measures of constraint against State-owned property (*Germany v. Italy*) (ICJ) and the Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*Ukraine v. Russian Federation*) (ICJ) cases, as well as research assistant in inter-state and investor-state disputes. He has been a member of the Italian delegation during the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference on the negotiation of an Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

He has been Editorial Assistant of the online journal *Questions of International Law*; editorial secretary of the book series *La ricerca del diritto nella comunità internazionale* (Editoriale Scientifica) and a member of the Editorial board of the *Osservatorio sulle attività delle organizzazioni internazionali e sovranazionali, universali e regionali, sui temi di interesse della politica estera italiana* (Study centre on activities of universal and regional international and supranational organizations concerning issues of interest for the Italian foreign policy).

His publications, in Italian and English, address issues of law of the sea, environmental law, State immunity, investment law and the law of international adjudication.

SustainEUorPlanet: The Project offers an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of international policies and legal frameworks of the European Union aimed at economic and social equity, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, and the search for security to overcome geopolitical tensions and asymmetries. SustainEUorPlanet has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it offers a set of activities that provide for the training of an excellent management and academic class, involving EU, national and international officials, politicians, NGOs, companies and public administrations. On the other hand, the Jean Monnet Chair project studies and analyses the role of the EU as a global player in constantly promoting a sustainability agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of the responsibility of economic actors and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing the EU's external instruments through participation and transparency. Equal attention is paid to security policy in the context of the global economy (see the [project's webpage](#) and [LinkedIn account](#)).