



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara**



### **Online Seminar**

**Friday 10 September 2021, 10:00 am (CEST)**

## **Business and Human Rights**

*Prof. Marc-Philippe Weller (University of Heidelberg)*

#### **Abstract:**

In Europe, there is currently an increasing momentum for human rights litigation. The lecture will discuss the social responsibilities of businesses with regard to the adverse impact of their supply chains on human rights and the environment, especially in the Global South.

Emblematic are the German decision in re "KiK" (on a devastating fire in a textile factory in Pakistan) and the UK Supreme court cases *Vedanta v. Lungowe* [2019] and *Okpabi v Royal Dutch Shell Plc* [2021]. In France, a claim against Total S.A. is pending.

Several EU Member States are adopting legislation to enforce human rights due diligence. However, these legislations differ in respect of their scope, the legal duty imposed and their provisions on enforcement, monitoring and remedies. The talk will compare the French *Loi de Vigilance* (2017) and the German *Supply Chain Act* (2021).

Finally, the lecture will highlight the jurisdictional and applicable law issues of civil liability for human rights violations. Recent proposals by the EU Commission and the *Groupe Européen de Droit International Privé* (GEDIP) to amend the *Brussels Ibis-Regulation* and the *Rome II-Regulation* will be presented.

*Moderator: Prof. Alberto De Franceschi (University of Ferrara)*

The event will be held as a video conference via Google Meet.

Participation is free of charge.

Please register at: [alberto.defranceschi@unife.it](mailto:alberto.defranceschi@unife.it)

You will receive the log in details.

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