



# Groningen Centre of Energy Law

- **Who is liable for damages resulting from CO<sub>2</sub> storage?**
- **Which legal regime applies to cross-border transport of electricity?**
- **Who owns the minerals and energy infrastructure in the subsoil?**
- **Is the allocation of emission rights free of charge in conflict with the polluter pays principle?**
- **Is it necessary to establish a separate legal regime for offshore wind energy?**



The energy sector is increasingly subject to changes in the law. The liberalisation of energy markets is based on laws and regulations aiming at freedom of choice and competition. At the same time States and market participants are confronted with decreasing oil and gas production and a need for more imports of primary energy sources. The economic impact is high, rules and contracts are crucial.

Through a process of legislation the European Union establishes the framework within which Member States and market participants can operate. However, national laws are not always clear and may differ between Member States. This may result in unforeseen contradictions and conflicts.

The Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen has established the Groningen Centre of Energy Law (GCEL) which focuses on legal questions involving the energy sector. This is a unique research centre concentrating on energy law. Some 25 researchers cover a wide range of legal issues affecting the energy sector.



**The Groningen Centre of Energy Law** co-ordinates all research involving the energy sector, 'from well head to burner pit'. It includes all legislation and regulation applying to the production, transmission and supply of energy, the promotion of renewable energy sources, the need to secure energy supply, as well as issues concerning climate change and environmental protection.

**Parties active in the energy sector** are increasingly confronted with constantly changing legal issues. The Groningen Centre of Energy Law has the knowledge and expertise to explain and assess these complex questions.

**The University of Groningen** has a special connection with the energy sector. Not only is it situated on top of the Groningen gas field, but it also has close ties with the market parties developing this field. Currently, the University and companies like Gasunie are co-operating in several energy-related organizations such as the Energy Delta Institute and the Energy Valley. The Groningen Centre of Energy Law also participates in the Energy Delta Research Centre (EDReC) which co-ordinates all energy research within the University.

**The Groningen Centre of Energy Law** co-ordinates within the faculty of law all research concerning (parts of) the energy sector. Current research concentrates on the liberalisation of the energy sector in the Netherlands as well as abroad, and its legal consequences. More recently the Centre started a research programme on the legal aspects of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).



design: A. Robbeson | photography: we@sea, Stanowicki Delta N.V., Sky-pictures

### **Contacts:**

Prof. Dr Martha M. Roggenkamp  
+31 (0)50-3633388, m.m.roggenkamp@rug.nl

Dr Edwin Woerdman  
+31 (0)50-3635736, e.woerdman@rug.nl

### **Address:**

Groningen Centre of Energy Law  
University of Groningen  
Faculty of Law  
PO Box 716  
9700 AS Groningen  
The Netherlands