

**Laudation of**  
**Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger**  
**on the occasion of presenting the**  
**JUSTITIA REGNORUM FUNDAMENTUM Award**

Since the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights is one of the UN National Human Rights Institutions, we feel important to represent this international dimension through the person chosen as one of this year's laureate as well. We have looked for a person amongst our international partners who perfectly meets the criteria laid down at the establishment of the award: exemplary, exceptionally outstanding achievements in the field of environmental protection. We have chosen Professor Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger for her achievements during her work spanning two decades in the field of representing future generations and environmental protection: climate change, biodiversity, natural resources, and sustainable development; she, as counsellor and member of most important global institutions, serves the cause of environmental and social justice, also works for the development of jurisprudence and takes part in the enlightening of generations of young lawyers through authoring numerous publications and lecturing at prestigious universities.

It would be lengthy to even list some of her most important work experiences: currently she serves as Senior Legal Expert, Sustainable Development, for the International Development Law Organization in Rome, where she co-leads the Thematic Working Group on Environment and Natural Resources Law of the World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development and co-chairs its Community of Practice on Climate Change and the Law. She is also a Senior Research Associate for the Centre for International Forestry Research, and Senior Legal Advisor / General Counsel to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and co-edits a Cambridge University Press Series. Dr Cordonier Segger holds a fellowship at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law of the University of Cambridge, is also Senior Director for the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law at the Faculty of Law of McGill University and serves as Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Chile, where she holds a permanent appointment in international law related to climate change, trade and investment, and natural resources. All this would be enough for more than one person for a lifetime – and what is most important, is a truly holistic and integrative oeuvre.

This time, through the titles of some of Professor Cordonier Segger's work, we will aim to highlight the manifold and, at the same time, integrative talent that helps point out the most essential processes through the delicate web of phenomena surrounding us and with which she can give guidance to organizations working for sustainable living, including our institution. *Integrating Social Development and Environmental Protection into Emerging Regional Economic Regimes* – we envisage children of developing nations, trying to help their families make ends meet, often through endangering their own lives by looking for scrap materials for sale in filthy household waste dumps or dumps of electrical and electronic waste that landed in their country illegally or through seemingly legal routes. And we feel, we have to feel responsibility towards these children living in a distant land who are overworked and exploited somehow indirectly through us as well.

*Sustainable Justice: Integrating Economic, Social and Environmental Law* – burning issue for us and other parts of the world as well: will the time come, when the individual political interests will meet in a sustainable developmental framework strategy and find their legitimate place and role?

*Sustainable Development in World Investment Law* – can we establish a legal environment that would clear the current obstacles from the path of green technology? *Legal Aspects of Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* – can humankind, Europeans, us, Hungarians, avert the risks caused by genetically modified organisms, will we be able to harmonize interests and viewpoints of technology and nature protection for the sake of protecting biological diversity? *Sustainable Development in International Courts and Tribunals* – will it be possible to work out an international state-investor dispute-resolution mechanism that will not be representing one-sidedly the multinational companies interested in profit-making but would give considerable weight to social, environmental and consumer interests as well?

*Legal Aspects of Carbon Trading: Kyoto, Copenhagen and Beyond* – and it might occur to us how Pope Francis in his famous encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* described that “...the strategy of buying and selling ‘carbon credits’ can lead to a new form of speculation [...] This system seems to provide a quick and easy solution under the guise of a certain commitment to the environment, but [...] it may simply become a ploy which permits maintaining the excessive consumption of some countries and sectors.”

*Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO Legal System, and Integrating Social and Economic Development and Environmental Protection in World Trade Law* – one of the key questions in our near future is whether we can at least keep the current achievements of sustainability in light of free trade agreements.

*Responsibility, Fraternity and Sustainability in Law* – beyond the limits of the technocratic view, can morality, soul and culture appear in the world of law? And finally: *War No More: Poetry in Hope of Peace* – hopefully we were able to show in a nutshell Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger’s multifold interest, diversified work in which there is always a common denominator to be found: love for nature, aiming for intergenerational and intragenerational justice, representation of the interest of future generations. Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger in her work as leading legal scientist, political advisor, civil activist, member of international developmental organizations represents all this – all that our institution also stands for. Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger is our ally, our friend in the quest for a just future. We have learnt a lot from her and are grateful for the possibility of our cooperation and this award is a representation of this gratitude.

Budapest, 24 June 2016