

# EUROPE'S GREEN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

## HOW CAN LAWYERS CONTRIBUTE TO MAKE EUROPE GREEN AND DIGITAL?

### ABOUT ESG, DIGITAL, CHATGPT, AI : OPPORTUNITIES OR THREATS FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION ?

Green and digital transition are among the key priorities of the European Commission's political agenda.

Digital technologies are an asset to achieve the goals of the European Green Deal. On the other hand, they also pose a problem given the intense energy consumption that the applications also require. It is therefore important to reconcile both digital and sustainable transition.

The seminar prepared by the Incubator will reflect on the challenges posed by the "EU Digital Green Deal" not only as citizens but also as lawyers in our daily practice.

The seminar is divided into 3 parts:

#### **GENERAL ACADEMIC INTRODUCTION**

The Green Deal is one of the biggest European political and economic projects in history. During this panel, several professors with both academic and legal backgrounds will reflect on the implications of the Green Deal both on the economy and our clients' challenges and on the law. An attempt will be made to provide the best possible legal framework of this huge project and its various tracks. The role of the law currently in force in the sustainable transition is also considered.

#### **IMPACT OF THE DIGITAL GREEN DEAL ON LAW AND BUSINESS MODELS**

We focus on three concrete topics that we explore in more detail.

What is green IT and how can we make a digital ecosystem more sustainable? We will learn how Belfius has developed a plan and strategy to reduce the environmental impact of its IT infrastructure. What does the Green Deal mean for IT service contracts? How do you introduce this concept in a Service Level Agreement? How do you make co-contracting parties responsible for greening their applications in the (IT) chain?

In a subsequent panel, we will address yet another compliance task for more than 50,000 companies: namely the so-called "corporate sustainability reporting" or CSRD. This extensive reporting gives many companies headaches. However, this reporting will play a crucial role and indicate to what extent companies are really becoming more sustainable. It will also have an impact on their image towards consumers and influence their access to finance on good terms.

How can we communicate intelligently on the subject of sustainable development without falling into greenwashing and clichés? Together with the FEB and an expert, we will look at how companies can prepare for sustainability reporting.

#### **HOW TO WORK MORE SUSTAINABLY AS A FIRM**

How can lawyers and law firms contribute to achieving the ambitious goals of the Green Deal? How can their practice become (more) sustainable? New generations and young potentials are increasingly asking these questions. The answer will play a part in their choice of a new firm. Using concrete examples, we will learn which strategy to adopt and how to implement it.

