

The Polluter Pays Principle in European Waste Law Promotion of an Interdisciplinary Approach Through the Integration of Ethical Considerations into European Waste Legislation to Ensure the Successful Implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle

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Recognising that environmental challenges involve multiple disciplines, this paper explores the need for interdisciplinary approaches to address them. Central to the discussion is the prominent role of the 'polluter pays principle' in both ethics and European waste law, which emphasises the allocation of financial responsibility. This principle serves as a compelling illustration that encourages ethical considerations within legal environmental practice. Divided into three parts, the first part introduces the idea of interdisciplinary cooperation between law and ethics, provides an overview of the concept of the polluter pays principle, and advances three essential ethical questions for implementing this principle effectively. The second part focuses on European waste policy and provides an in-depth analysis of its key document: the European Waste Framework Directive. The purpose of this analysis is to gather essential insights that will provide the basis for addressing the three ethical questions raised in the first part. The third part of the thesis seeks to answer these questions by providing two examples of the polluter pays principle in practice: the Austrian waste disposal tax and the Greek landfill tax. In addition, further ethical considerations and extensions are made.

The overall aim of this thesis is to highlight and advocate the benefits of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing waste-related challenges. In doing so, I hope to increase the positive impact of ethical considerations on environmental legislation to provide convincing arguments in favour of addressing environmental challenges.

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