

## **Syllabus: EU ENERGY LAW**

**Instructor:** Sirja-Leena Penttinen, sirja-leena.penttinen@ulapland.fi

**Credit Hours / Format:** 1 credit

**Mode of Assessment:** Final paper(s), class participation

### **Course description:**

European Union (EU) energy law is a uniquely integrated area of regulation, where uniform rules apply across all EU Member States. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the legal and policy framework governing energy in the European Union. It explores the evolution of EU energy law, the structure and regulation of energy markets, and the EU's ambitious sustainability agenda. Students will examine the legal foundations of EU energy governance, including the division of competences, sector specific regulation, and the role of EU institutions. The course also addresses contemporary challenges such as hydrogen development and critical raw materials. Through case studies and legal analysis, students will gain an understanding of how EU law shapes the energy landscape in Europe and beyond.

### **Learning outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the legal foundations of the EU and its relevance to energy law, including the sources of EU law, institutional roles, and the division of competences in the energy sector.
- Describe the structure and functioning of EU energy markets, including electricity, gas, and emerging hydrogen markets.
- Analyse sector-specific regulation and its impact on market liberalization and competition.
- Evaluate the EU's legal and policy framework for sustainable energy, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and governance.
- Assess the legal mechanisms supporting the green energy transition, including sustainability due diligence and the integration of environmental objectives into energy law.
- Describe future-oriented legal developments, such as the regulation of hydrogen and critical raw materials, and their implications for EU energy security and strategic autonomy.

### **Grading:**

Grading will be based on a final paper(s) and class participation.

### **Course outline:**

The course is divided into different thematic parts. The following is a tentative structure, subject to changes. The items are not one per hour but indicate the order of things.

## **Part I – FRAMEWORK**

- 1) Introduction: preliminary remarks on the EU and EU law
- 2) The sources of EU law and EU institutions
- 3) EU (energy) objectives
- 4) Division of competences in energy

## **Part II – INTRODUCTION TO EU ENERGY MARKETS, SECTOR-SPECIFIC REGULATION AND APPLICATION OF TREATY LAW**

- 5) An overview of the EU energy sector
- 6) Sector-specific energy market regulation
- 7) Treaty law

## **Part III – SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LAW AND POLICY**

- 8) The development of the EU policy framework on sustainability
- 9) Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 10) Governing the green energy transition
- 11) Sustainability due diligence in the energy sector

## **Part IV – FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

- 12) Hydrogen
- 13) Critical minerals
- 14) Financing mechanisms