

# **Shadows of Strife: The role of Environmental Law in Safeguarding People and the Environment in Times of Conflict**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Climate advocacy: a critical appraisal of the EU legal order**

**Dr. Manuela Sánchez, San Pablo CEU**

Environmental advocates are encountering escalating dangers, including violence and legal challenges. However, among the most significant threats they face is the prevalence of disinformation and misinformation. This issue arises from global entities that intentionally disseminate false information about climate change. The legal protection of environmental journalists is essential to enable them to persist in their reporting efforts. Climate disinformation is particularly worrisome as it jeopardizes European principles and values. Specifically, it poses a risk to the integrity of scientific trust, diminishes public support for climate initiatives, obstructs the execution of policies and hampers international collaboration on climate issues.

To enable journalists to effectively cover environmental issues and disseminate science-based information to the public, it is imperative that they have access to relevant locations, individuals, and data. In response to this challenge, the European Union has established a comprehensive regulatory framework, which encompasses the European Media Freedom Act, the Enhanced Code of Practice on Disinformation, and the European Digital Media Observatory. This presentation delineates the key distinctions between misinformation and disinformation within the context of climate discourse, examines their predominant narratives, and offers proposals to the significant challenges posed by disinformation phenomena. The findings suggest that, although there are many positive aspects in EU regulation to tackle climate disinformation, there are still areas for improvement in regulation, such as involving more actors in the fight against disinformation and improving the coordination within the EU.