



The **Department of Law** at the **University of Cyprus** kindly invites you to a research seminar on

‘The status of the precautionary principle in EU Law’

Wednesday, 27 November 2024 at 18:00-19:15

by Dr. Alex Khoury

Chair: Assistant Professor Dr. Ioanna Hadjiyianni

Abstract

Precautionary policies may exist with or without the precautionary principle (PP); they have existed before it (and might be as old as the proverb “better safe than sorry”) and will probably continue to flourish after its (improbable) disappearance. But in the wake of the “risk society” and man’s realisation that her impact to the biosphere may prove regrettably severe, precaution acquired an elevated significance and purpose: At first, it aimed to reverse this worrying trend and display solidarity to future generations; however, there are signs that it may also act as a vehicle through which lay people are able to assert their right to control their fates. These tendencies have led to the metamorphosis of a classic adage to an influential principle, which has not escaped fierce criticism both for its ambiguity and its alleged impracticality and dangerous implications. Within this framework, the European Union (EU) has opted in favour of consolidating its precautionary policies under the umbrella of “the” PP, making in the process, one of the most significant attempts to reduce the inherent uncertainties and provide some concrete guidance in relation to its application and meaning. Against a background of powerful critiques, the PP is going through a phase of evolution and the EU arena is not an exception as the principle’s development has been influenced by various competing dynamics. This paper examines the status of the PP in the Union including whether it should be considered a general principle of EU Law.

Speaker Bio

Dr Alex Khoury is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Lincoln. Previously, he taught at the Universities of Bristol, Leicester and Cambridge and held senior management governmental positions including serving as Deputy Governor of the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority. Alex holds an LLB/Law and an LLM in European Law (University of Kent) as well as an MPhil in European Studies and a PhD in Law (Peterhouse, University of Cambridge). He was also a Visiting Researcher in Law and Economics at Harvard Law School. Alex has published in the areas of EU Law and Risk Regulation and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His research, throughout the years, has been sponsored by various organisations and funding bodies including, *inter alia*, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Peterhouse, University of Cambridge and the Cambridge Political Economy Society Trust.

Practical Details

Language: The seminar will be conducted in English

Registration: Please register for the Zoom meeting following [this link](#).