

# Protecting our Life Support System

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# Introduction to ClientEarth

- ClientEarth is a non-profit environmental law organisation
- We use law, science and policy to tackle key environmental challenges
- We work on climate change, energy, environmental justice, biodiversity, forests and human health

# Law (huh), what is it good for?

- Cases in national courts - *“individuals are entitled, as against public bodies, to rely on the provisions of a directive which are unconditional and sufficiently precise”*
- Infringement procedures
- Other regulatory challenges - licences, ombudsman etc
- Using other laws to get the result

# Sweetman (C-258/11, C-323/17, C-164/17)



# Cases in national Courts – Ambient Air Quality Directive

- Legal action in national courts – UK, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Italy
- Pressure to move infringements – Commission intervention with member states
- Public awareness - Systemic shift towards more sustainable alternatives – German Diesel ban, UK Clean Air Zones, car manufacturers

Commission v  
Poland C-441/17  
Bialowieza



COUR DE JUSTICE  
DE L'UNION  
EUROPÉENNE

# Where are we going?

- Ensuring that EU law continues to offer real environmental protections
- Pushing for greater ambition in tackling threats to nature
- Access to environmental justice in Member States and at EU level

# Empowering others to act

- Sharing knowledge, skills and expertise – capacity building
- Keeping pressure on regulators and decision makers to use their powers and carry out their duties





# Thank you

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