

ECOCIDE AS A NEW CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW IN RELATION TO DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1203

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ABSTRACT

With the aim of defining the environmental crisis as a security and legal challenge, the author, in the first part of the paper, examines the genesis of the concept of ecocide, from the Vietnam War to the 2021 expert panel, presenting the evolution of ecocide from a political concept into a normative framework. The second part of the paper is dedicated to the analysis of the initiative to amend the Rome Statute with a fifth international crime through the prism of European Union legislative solutions, which have set new standards for the protection and sanctioning of various forms of environmental destruction. The final part of the paper is devoted to the analysis of key elements of the definition of ecocide and the challenges of proving the causal link in existing international judicial practice. The objective of this paper is to highlight the necessity of incorporating established standards into national legislation for a more efficient protection of the environment.

Keywords: ecocide, Rome Statute, International criminal law, Directive (EU) 2024/1203, environmental protection, International Court of Justice.