



ON THE CORPORATE DUTY TO REDUCE EMISSIONS: REFLECTIONS ON THE *MILIEUDEFENSIE* RULING

This contribution examines the recent decision of the Court of Appeal in The Hague in *Milieudefensie v. Shell*, which reaffirmed that private companies have a general duty to reduce their CO₂ emissions but overturned the first-instance ruling that required a specific 45% reduction by 2030. According to the Court, this figure stemmed from scientific and policy assessments rather than binding legal obligations directly applicable to corporate actors. The article critically reflects on this reasoning, questioning the legal significance of scientific consensus (e.g., IPCC reports), the relevance of the precautionary principle, and the evolving standard of care in climate litigation. It explores how soft law instruments, corporate due diligence duties, and judicial interpretation contribute to shaping enforceable climate obligations for companies. The analysis concludes with a proposal to strengthen the normative link between climate science and corporate legal responsibility.