



### THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFIGURATION OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

The article analyses the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, adopted in 2025, highlighting its contribution to the configuration of a reinforced European model of criminal environmental protection. Starting from the context of the so-called “triple planetary crisis” – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – it examines the process of adopting the new instrument, functional structure and main regulatory contributions. The paper identifies how the 2025 Convention overcomes the previous fragmented approach and establishes reinforced minimum standards in terms of criminal classification, liability of legal persons, sanctions, prevention, international cooperation and monitoring mechanism designing an integrated system of environmental criminal governance. It also examines the potential impact of the Convention on corporate sustainability and due diligence policies. The article concludes that the Convention not only strengthens environmental criminal harmonization in Europe but can also act as a regulatory instrument for integrating environmental risk into corporate governance.