

The Impact of the EU on German Environmental Law under the Environmental Impact Assessment and Citizen Suit System

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Abstract

European integration has proceeded for over fifty years, impacting various aspects of Member States of the European Union, ranging from governmental organization to administrative operation, policy formation, legal framework, rights of citizens, national identity, social culture, economic and financial order, and so forth. This article focuses on the environmental law of the European Union and its impacts on Germany. This article examines the adaptation of German environmental law, by comparing the processes of adjusting the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Citizen Suit System. The findings of the study reveal that decisive elements of adaptation depend on the compatibility of the old and new systems, and of actors' attitudes. Furthermore, integration does not necessarily entail uniformity or consistency across the systems of the Member States. Under the prerequisite of meeting the minimum standards, the systems of individual Member States may retain considerable differences.

Key Words: impact of Europeanization, environmental impact assessment, Citizen Suit