

The absence of community in the Community's approach to disasters: some preliminary thoughts on the role of communities in EU disaster law

Against the multiplication of references to community in relation to disasters, this paper examines how the concept of community or communities is construed and applied in EU disaster law. What types and models of community emerge from international and regional sources and what role do communities — in the broad sense of empirical groupings to which law attributes legal significance — play in the design of EU disaster norms? The paper relies on an understanding of community derived both from Weberian legal philosophy and from scholarship examining the specific construction of community(ies) in the context of disaster governance (section 2). It begins by mapping references to community at the international level, where the normative underpinnings of disaster law are most clear (section 3). It then moves to an assessment of the role that community plays in legal and policy discourse at the regional level, with a focus on the EU (section 4) before advancing some preliminary conclusions on the role that community currently plays in EU disaster law and governance (section 5).

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