

# Europe's Climate Change Response

## Adaption and Migitation in an Uncertain World



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,  
Brussels



# Europe's Climate Change Response: Adaption and Mitigation in an Uncertain World

## Overview

Climate change poses one of the greatest anthropogenic threats to life across the globe. The risks include biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, meteorological extremes, instability of global food systems, floods, droughts, and the irreversible modification of our living environment.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) estimates that surface temperatures are projected to rise over the 21st century under all assessed emission scenarios, and the European Environment Agency estimates that the total reported economic damage caused by climate-related extremes in Europe over the last four decades is close to 400 billion Euros.

Mitigating climate change is now a political and economic necessity, but the recent decision by the United States to revise their commitment to this endeavour jeopardises the achievement of an effective solution. It is therefore imperative for the EU to step up with ambitious targets and become a world leader in an inclusive energy transition.

In 2014 the European Commission introduced the 2030 Climate and Energy Package, setting out three key targets; a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions, a 27% target for renewable energy use, and a 27% increase in energy efficiency. Forthcoming legislative changes also include modifications to the EU-ETS (Emissions Trading System), and the Effort Sharing Regulation. These efforts underpin ambitions for a low carbon economy by 2050, with the EU aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels. However, the Commission calculates that the realisation of this objective would require a projected additional investment of €270 billion.

At the global level, the Paris Agreement, signed by 195 nations, came into force in November 2016, aiming to limit further temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

With the stakes so high, many outstanding challenges remain, such as guaranteeing a successful transition to low-carbon technologies, ensuring clean, secure, renewable energy supplies, and delivering change in a cost efficient and timely manner. Such legislative changes will impact businesses, corporations, consumers and civil society alike, demonstrating the need for clear and effective dialogue.

This timely symposium will provide delegates with an invaluable opportunity to assess Europe's approach to tackling climate change and discuss possible pathways for innovation, adaption and mitigation. The event will also enable delegates to share best practice and knowledge on strategies for an inclusive and socially responsible transition to clean energy sources. The conference will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

**“Fighting Climate Change is not a choice for today's politicians, it is a necessity (and a responsibility). It is not a question of “if”, but of “how”. It's not a question of putting my country or your country first. It's a question of putting the planet first – we need to make the Paris Agreement a reality, for the sake of the generations to come.”**

- Miguel Arias Cañete, EU Energy & Climate Action Commissioner

European Commission

March 2017

## Venue and Accommodation

**Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre**  
Avenue du Boulevard 17  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Analyse the EU's current approach to fighting climate change, and progress made towards 2030 targets
- ✓ Explore possible innovative solutions and mechanisms for businesses to limit GHG emissions
- ✓ Share up-to-date knowledge of climate mitigation and adaption strategies and the role of climate finance in fostering transitions to low-carbon technology
- ✓ Share best practices and exchange ideas on managing aviation emissions and the functioning of market based mechanisms to address climate change
- ✓ Gain knowledge and insights on the future Clean Energy Package and the state of the Energy Union
- ✓ Take part in lively and interactive discussions with key stakeholders in the field of climate and environmental policy
- ✓ Assess how to pre-empt and collaboratively address emerging risks
- ✓ Build partnerships for cross border collaboration in the field of climate adaption

## Who Should Attend?

- Environmental Associations
- Climate Change Experts
- Local Authorities
- Organisational Development Professionals
- International and Regional Organisations
- National Ministries and Institutes
- Joint Committees on Environment
- Social Exclusion Officers
- Confederations of Independent Unions
- Local Area Trailblazers
- Regional Development and Natural Environment Specialists
- Local Authority
- GreenCity Teams
- Local Authority Waste and Recycling Professionals
- Local Authority Waterways Professionals
- Central Government Departments
- Sustainable Development Stakeholders
- Transport Leads
- Sustainable Tourism Professionals
- Directors and Heads of Parks and Public Spaces
- Environmental Services and Policy Professionals
- Environmental Services Sustainability Professionals
- Environmental Services Urban Design Professionals
- Environmental Planning and Design Officers
- Conservation Professionals
- Environmental Campaigns Professionals
- Environmental Enforcement Professionals
- Housing Authorities and Professionals
- Energy Leads
- Biodiversity Leads
- Renewable Energy Leads
- Energy Efficiency Professionals
- Climate Change Experts

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## Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Strengthening the EU Policy Framework on Climate Change: Developments and Ways Forward**
- Analysing Europe's 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework
  - Actions in 2017 for Maintaining Europe's Paris Agreement Commitments
  - Lessons from Morocco: UNFCCC COP 22 Outcomes
  - The Next Steps for Successful Adaption and Mitigation in Europe
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Tackling Carbon Emissions: Guaranteeing Adequate Reform of the European Emissions Trading System**
- Carbon Markets: Subsidies and the Current State of Play
  - Securing Correct Supply and Demand for Pollution Allowances
  - The Future of Aviation in the EU: Ensuring 2030 Targets are Met
  - Balancing Climate Change Commitments with Economic Development
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **A New Energy Framework: Next Steps for the Clean Energy Package and the Energy Union**
- The Renewable Energy Revolution: Reducing Fossil Fuel Dependency
  - Energy Security in Europe in an Uncertain Geopolitical Environment
  - Protecting Consumers and Fostering Alternative Energy Supplies
  - Progress on the Clean Energy Package and the Energy Union
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Fostering Innovation for a Low Carbon Transition: Climate Financing and Low-Carbon Technology**
- Channelling Climate Finance to Innovative Projects, Research and Development
  - Future Prospects for Market Based Mechanisms for Climate Mitigation
  - Reaching Transitory Tipping Points: the Case of the Solar Industry
  - Managing Emerging Risks and Sharing Best Practice
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

*\*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice\**

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## Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 5th July 2017  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



## Speakers Include:

**Dirk Röttgers**, Climate Finance and Investment, OECD

**Claus Kondrup**, Acting Head of Unit, Adaption, Directorate-General for Climate Action – DG CLIMA, European Commission

**Sam Van Den Plas**, Senior Policy Officer - Climate & Energy Programme, WWF

**Femke de Jong**, EU Policy Director, Carbon Market Watch

**Dries Acke**, Head of the Energy Union Programme, European Climate Foundation

**Milan Elkerbout**, Researcher, Energy and Climate Change, Centre for European Policy Studies

**Paolo Mattana**, Senior Public Affairs Officer, Climate Disclosure Project

## Forthcoming Events:

✓ The Future of Tourism in Europe: Promoting Competitiveness Through Sustainability and Digitisation  
**4th July 2017**

✓ Eliminating Energy Poverty Across Europe: Monitoring Progress for an Inclusive Energy Union  
**5th September 2017**

✓ Cross-border Healthcare in Europe: Promoting Patients' Rights and Boosting Cooperation  
**12th September 2017**