

Europe's climate change challenge

24 April 2019

09:30-10:00 Tea, coffee and registration

10:00-10:15 Welcoming remarks

- Charles Grant, Director, Centre for European Reform
- Nicole Katsioulis, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung London

10:15-11:45 Panel 1: Europe and global climate leadership

The signatories to the Paris Agreement pledged to keep global average temperatures from rising more than 2°C. But that goal looked difficult to achieve even before Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the accord. Which other global powers should Europeans co-operate with to establish and maintain a global climate change regime? How likely is Europe to hit its own targets for mitigating climate change? How can Europe support sustainable development worldwide and lead the transition to a low-carbon economy?

Speakers:

- Elina Bardram, Head of Unit, International Relations, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission
- Clive Lewis, Labour MP for Norwich South, House of Commons and Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group
- Philipp Niessen, Director, Industry and Innovation, European Climate Foundation

Chair: Sophia Besch, Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

11:45-12:15 Coffee break

12:15-13:45 Panel 2: A clean energy market

In 2015 the EU unveiled its vision for the Energy Union, an interconnected European market where gas and power flow freely across borders, and energy efficiency and emissions trading keep Europe green. But member-states' national agendas and geopolitical tensions risk undermining the Energy Union and delaying the transition to a 'decarbonised' European energy system. How can Europe develop the infrastructure and regulatory measures needed to complete a clean Energy Union? How can the UK continue to plug into the EU's efforts after Brexit?

Speakers:

- Lisa Fischer, Senior Policy Advisor, E3G
- Jostein Kristensen, Partner, Oxera Consulting
- Clare Moody, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats and Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament

Chair: Sam Lowe, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

13:45-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Panel 3: Industry and innovation

To meet its climate change objectives and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Europe relies on innovative, new low-carbon technologies. In order to stay competitive, European industries must include decarbonisation in their planning. How can the EU encourage and stimulate the development of innovative low-carbon technology in Europe and globally? How can European governments incentivise industries to change operating practices and reduce their environmental impact?

Speakers:

- Catherine Howarth, Chief Executive, ShareAction
- Corinna Zierold, Senior Policy Adviser, industriAll European Trade Union

Chair: John Springford, Deputy Director, Centre for European Reform

16:00-16:15 Closing remarks

- Sophia Besch, Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform