



Research Tour – Anticipating Europe: Foresight and the next generation of EU reporting

A research tour for journalists from 29 to 30 September 2026
Brussels, Belgium



Overview

Brussels has spent the past two mandates learning to plan for a future it can no longer take for granted. Russia's attack on Ukraine, an unstable transatlantic relationship, accelerating climate impacts and a race in AI and other frontier technologies have pushed EU institutions to formalise something journalists rarely get to see up close: the machinery of anticipation itself.

Journalists based in Europe can spend two days getting behind that question during our study trip to Brussels from 29-30 September 2026. It is organised in cooperation with the Centre for Future Generations (CFG) and supported by the European Parliament.

Institutionalising foresight is not the same as it mattering. Political attention and budgets for this kind of work have fluctuated over the past decade – Parliament's own *Global Trendometer* was discontinued in 2019 – and it's often unclear from the outside whether a given scenario study fed into real legislation or quietly sat on a shelf. This could be looking into scenarios such as a delay in the ETS II timeline for 2035 or a possible US return to the Paris Agreement in 2029.

The European Commission now issues an annual Strategic Foresight Report – the 2025 edition was framed around "Resilience 2.0" and the 2026 report is asking how the EU should position itself in a rapidly changing world. The Council publishes an annual Forward Look, and the inter-institutional European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) process ties it all together with a Global Trends Report every five years.

For journalists covering the EU, that is precisely the gap worth reporting on: not just what these units say about 2035 or 2040, but whether anyone in power is listening, and how to tell the difference.

Day one, hosted at the Centre for Future Generations, is built around the method itself. We'll unpack what foresight actually is – scenarios, horizon scanning and stress-testing, aimed at exploring plausible futures rather than predicting one – and trace where it has gone since the EU embraced it with real ambition around 2015. We'll also look into how to write about long-horizon findings without slipping into hype or false certainty, and how to pressure-test a real EU scenario study: does it feed actual legislation, what happened to its predecessor's recommendations, and how has its budget changed since the mid-2010s peak? The goal is a shared, practical set of questions helping participants to inquire a real-life use of foresight.

Day two moves to the European Parliament, where we'll hear experts such as members of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), as well as one of the responsible units on how the Parliament does foresight plus the European Science-Media Hub. We're also having meetings with senior parliamentary staff and two MEPs from the STOA Panel, and will close with an open discussion on what the group saw behind the scenes versus the method learned on day one – and how to report on EU foresight with the right mix of engagement and scepticism.

For background on how the EU currently practices foresight, see the Commission's [Strategic Foresight Report](#) and the inter-institutional [ESPAS](#) process.

Important addresses during the tour

Hotels Citadines Sainte-Catherine Brussels (Quai au Bois à Brûler 51, 1000 Brussels)

Please check your e-mails which hotel you are assigned for Citadines Toison d'Or Brussels (61, Av. de la Toison d'Or 63, 1060 Saint-Gilles)

Centre for Future Generations Jane Goodall space, Norrsken House, Rue du Commerce 72, 1040 Brussels

Kamilou 36 rue Joseph II, 1000 Brussels

European Parliament Room Zweig 05, Zweig Visitor Centre, Rue d'Ardenne, 1000 Brussels

Contacts CLEW Clemens Schöll: +49 160 9034 9303
Boris Schneider: +49 176 2488 9702

Consider to join the Signal group for this tour if you haven't done so.

Programme

Tuesday, 29 September

Until 12:30  **Arrival of the participants in Brussels**

12.30 **Meeting at:** Centre for Future Generations, Norrsken House, Rue du Commerce 72, 1040 Bruxelles

12.30 Arrival and quick working lunch

13.15  **Welcome & Introduction**

- **Trish Lavery**
Climate Interventions Strategic Foresight Consultant, Centre for Future Generations
- **Clemens Schöll**
Journalism Programme Manager, Clean Energy Wire

13.30  **Introduction to Foresight**

- **Trish Lavery**
Climate Interventions Strategic Foresight Consultant, Centre for Future Generations

Introduction to foresight vocabulary. Foresight explores plausible futures rather than predicting them; its main tools are horizon scanning, scenarios and stress-testing. Introduction to the different methods of scenario generation.

Combining weak signals. Participants answer one prompt: what is one thing in your field that nobody is talking about yet? Signals shared round the room, then a quick pairing, combine yours with another, to sense how signals build a picture of several possible futures rather than one forecast.

14.00  **Reporting on Foresight and Futures, part one**

Orientation: how the EU uses foresight. A short map of the landscape they will walk into tomorrow, the Parliament and STOA, the Commission, the EU Policy Lab and JRC, the strategic foresight reports and cycle.

EU foresight over time. The EU foresight story: the Parliament's Global Trends Unit (2015) and the Global Trendometer (until 2019), the unit renamed rather than closed (now the Policy Foresight Unit); ESPAS and Global Trends to 2030, still running with a 2024 report; the Commission's annual Strategic Foresight Report since 2020, and scenario-testing built in from 2026. Participants consider whether the evolution is a decline, maturation or change in form and write a provisional list of questions they would put to the EU on Day 2.

The reporting craft. What to keep in mind when covering forward-looking outputs so they are not flattened into the generic trope: holding uncertainty without hype or false prediction, spelling out the key tensions, widening the cast of actors beyond the usual few, and distinguishing a real signal from hype.

15.30 Coffee break

15.45  **Reporting on Foresight and Futures, part two**

▪ *Trish Lavery*

Interrogating a foresight product. Small groups pressure-test foresight products: does it feed real decisions or sit on a shelf? What are its assumptions, and who is missing from them? How is it resourced, and by whom? Who authored it, with what mandate?

Hands-on task. In small groups, take a real EU forward-looking output and either draft an original angle on it or list the reporting pitfalls it invites. Short share-back

17.30  **Closing round and bridge to day 2**

17.45 End – You might use the time to check-in at your hotel

19.00  Dinner & get-together at Kamilou, 36 rue Joseph II

Wednesday, 30 September

08.45 **Meeting at Press accreditation center**

SPINELLI building, rue Wiertz 60 / Wiertzstraat 60, 1050 Brussels (access via the esplanade Agora Simone VEIL)

09.30 **Welcome by the Parliament's Media Unit**

▪ *Raffaella De Marte*
Head of Decentralised Media Unit

Location: Room Zweig 05, Zweig Visitor Centre, Rue d'Ardenne, 1000 Brussels

09.45  **Industry, Research and Energy**

Baptiste Chatain

Press Officer, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

The upcoming relevant files to be voted at committee and plenary level.

10.15 **The Science-Media-Policy Interface**

Diandra Vanigioli

Communication Team Lead, European Science-Media Hub in STOA

The work of the ESMH - Bringing scientists, journalists and policymakers together for better science communication.

11.00 **Discussion with MEP**

Thomas Pellerin-Carlin

MEP S&D

Why foresight matters to legislators now, and where it sits on the political agenda today.

12.00 **Foresight in practice**

Petra Goran

Policy analyst, EU Policy Lab, European Commission

How the EU Policy Lab facilitates foresight in and with the Commission: the methods, the tools and the implementation of foresight projects.

13.15 **Foresight in practice**

Vasco Guedes Ferreira

Senior policy advisor, STOA

13.30 **Lunch**

Location: tba – most likely close to the seminar room

14.00 **Discussion with MEP**

Lidia Pereira

MEP EPP

Why foresight matters to legislators now, and where it sits on the political agenda today.

14.30 **Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**

Thomas Haahr

Press Officer, Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

The upcoming relevant files to be voted at committee and plenary level.

14.45 **Wrap-up and takeaways**

- Pulling the two days together, open discussion and close.

15.00 **End of the programme (buffer to 15.30)**

EP contact:

Lucian Goleanu, Decentralised Media Unit, DG COMM, lucian.goleanu@europarl.europa.eu

Background info on the programme

- **Trish Lavery** is Climate Interventions Strategic Foresight Consultant at the Centre for Future Generations. Trish puts human behaviour at the centre of discussions on emerging technologies and trends. She is working with the Climate Interventions team to examine possible futures of solar radiation modification.
- **Raffaella De Marte** coordinates the press officers of the European Parliament in the 28 EU states and in this quality today deals with the media element of the institutional campaign for the 2019 European elections. Previously, she was responsible for the relations with the press and social media of the then President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz.
- **Baptiste Chatain** is Press Officer, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).
- **Diandra Vanigioli** is Communication Team Lead at the European Science-Media Hub. Before joining in 2024, Diana worked in the European Commission (JRC) in the fields of science-for-policy and international cooperation in R&I. She organizes the ESMH summer school.
- **Thomas Pellerin-Carlin** is a French MEP (Place Publique, S&D) elected in 2024. Before joining the European Parliament, Thomas worked as a researcher and research director, specialising in EU energy and climate policy, at the Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE) and the Jacques Delors Institute. He also worked in academia at the College of Europe and the French National administration.
- **Petra Goran** is policy analyst at the EU Policy Lab – Foresight Competence Centre, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. ageing and the corresponding public consultation. Previously she worked for the UN Development Programme, Croatian Ministry of Administration, Ministry of European Integration and Raiffeisenbank.
- **Vasco Guedes Ferreira** is senior policy advisor at STOA with over 20 years of experience in EU policy development, economic analysis in energy, climate and sustainability. He is specialised in providing technical and scientific insights to address policy questions, and is working on the European Green Deal, Fit for 55 package, and EU environmental and industrial policies.
- **Lídia Pereira** is a Portuguese MEP (Partido Social Democrata, EPP) elected in 2019. In the 2019 European elections Pereira was the first politician to run a carbon neutral political campaign, drawing attention to climate change. Before joining the European Parliament, she worked as a consultant in the financial sector. She is Vice President of the EPP Parliamentary Group.
- **Thomas Haahr** is Press Officer, Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).
- **Boris Schneider** is European Programme Manager for Clean Energy Wire. He is at the centre of the CLEW team's international and cross-border activities. Whenever he is not spotting new partnership opportunities across the continent or sharpening CLEW's

European portfolio for future funders, you will find him coordinating the weekly 'Dispatch from...' newsletter – CLEW's flagship publication on Europe's move to climate neutrality.

- **Clemens Schöll** is Journalism Programme Manager at Clean Energy Wire. He organises study trips, conferences and different types of on and offline trainings. While organising an exchange programme for Central and Eastern European reporters, he realised that it was even more fulfilling to work with journalists than as a journalist. Before that, he was working at a number of media outlets, including dpa, Stiftung Warentest and Thüringer Allgemeine.

Organisational details

What languages will be spoken?

Presentations during the tour will be in English.

What about travel arrangements?

Local transport *during the tour* will be organised by the Clean Energy Wire. Participants are kindly asked to organise their own travel to Brussels. Travel expenses will be reimbursed by the European Parliament according to the rules handed out to every participant.

The official programme will start on Tuesday, 29 September, at 12.30/1.30 p.m. CEST at the Centre for Future Generations. The official programme will end on Wednesday, 30 September around 15.30/3.30 p.m. CEST at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Is there a possibility for individual research?

If you are interested in extending the study tour for individual research, please contact the Clean Energy Wire. We will support you in finding the most relevant experts, stakeholders, and locations for your questions.

What about quotes and interviews?

We work on the basis that statements made by participants can be quoted by the journalists present in their media reports. As a rule, conversations are "on the record".

If speakers do not want to be quoted, we ask them to inform the participating journalists where this is the case. Remarks may then be made "off the record" and will not be quoted.

In Germany, it is common practice for journalists to seek authorisation for quotes before using them. Speakers are asked to advise participating journalists if they would like to check quotes before publication.

What about photos, videos and audio recordings?

Photos of speakers and participants of the event might be published on the blog, the CLEW website and in social networks. Please support CLEW's press and public relations work by allowing yourself to be photographed or filmed. If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform us in your application or on the spot. You can also object to the use of your image at a later date at event@cleanenergywire.org

If the speakers or other participants would like to take photos or record audio or video of the academy, they can approach a staff member from Clean Energy Wire so that we can agree on workable solutions.

For all photos of speakers or photos taken at locations and during on-site visits, please respect the specific requirements made.

For all other questions on organisational issues please check the [FAQ section here](#) or get in touch with us at:

event@cleanenergywire.org
www.cleanenergywire.org

■ [#CLEWontour](#)

About the organisers

Clean Energy Wire

The consequences of climate change and climate action have become a reality in Europe and across the globe. In a world characterised by polarisation and information overload, independent, focussed and constructive journalism in service of the public is vital for a faster, fairer move to climate neutrality and necessary adaptation.

What we do: Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) is an international hub for climate and energy journalism. CLEW reports independently on the stories that matter for the move to climate neutrality in Europe with well-contextualised news, factsheets and in-depth analyses. We collaborate with journalists across the globe who cover the world's biggest story. We empower journalists with training and research support. The [CLEW Journalism Network](#) with nearly 600 members from more than 80 countries offers a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and for collaboration.

Why we do it: A global energy transition is the key to getting the climate crisis under control. Good journalism is central to drawing the right conclusions from Europe's efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, what this means for citizens, businesses and society as a whole, and to inform the public debate across the globe. Germany's transformation of its energy system from fossil fuels and nuclear power to one based on renewables and efficiency is one of the country's defining stories.

Who pays for it: As a non-profit organisation under the roof of the 2050 Media Projekt gGmbH, we want to keep our journalism free for the public. Our philanthropic core funder Stiftung Mercator guarantee our independence from individual business or political interest. We aim for a mix of project funding and donations, and for collaboration on a larger scale if it fits our mandate and values of democracy, inclusiveness and fairness.
www.cleanenergywire.org