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How is the EU balancing climate action and the energy crisis?

Research tour for journalists organised by the Clean Energy Wire in
cooperation with the Ecologic Institute

05 Dec to 07 Dec 2022 in Brussels, Belgium

Overview

Following Russia's attack on Ukraine, the EU faces significant challenges in its efforts to address rising energy prices and its attempt to substitute large fossil energy deliveries from Russia. As the bloc has embarked on the path to climate neutrality by 2050 with its landmark Green Deal policy package, there is one key question: do the challenges of the crisis and efforts to tackle it derail or assist EU climate policy? The Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) Brussels Research Tour, jointly organised with Ecologic Institute, aims to offer insights into EU policy to deal with the crisis and its implications on the bloc's move to climate neutrality. Is there conflict or synergies? The tour gives an introduction to relevant institutions and actors in Brussels, their powers and constraints, and the way they interact on the way out of the crisis.

Have reduced fossil energy supplies from Russia derailed or assisted EU climate policy? As European Union member states find ways to secure alternative energy supplies, how are the EU's responses to the climate and energy crisis being balanced? Countries like Germany saw Russian fossil gas as a bridge fuel for the energy transition, but with this key part of the puzzle largely gone, many member states have to find new ways to meet energy demand while working towards a greener future.

Decisions at the EU level on energy and climate policy determine what can and must happen at the country level. At the same time, national interests can influence decisions on an EU level, with consequences across the continent. What happens in Brussels is of key importance for national policy, and understanding the politics and the actors is crucial for the debates and their impact on domestic issues.

Developing renewables is now seen as key to ensuring energy supply security, as well as reaching climate targets. The move to a climate-neutral, fossil-fuel-free energy system can mitigate import dependence in the longer term, while improving energy efficiency. Moving to domestic renewable energy sources and new fuels – such as hydrogen or synthetic fuels – are important steps for climate action and, if done right, will also entail a diversification of supplier countries. At the same time, EU actions have faced criticism. Many politicians, NGOs, researchers and even finance experts have questioned e.g. the decision to label nuclear and fossil gas projects as sustainable in the EU's taxonomy.

These plans require support from the EU and its member states. The Brussels Research Tour aims to offer insights into EU policy to tackle the energy crisis and its implications on the bloc's move to climate neutrality. In meetings with experts, policymakers, business and NGO representatives, the tour will provide essential background on EU climate and energy policymaking and cover topics of relevance to national policies. The participants will get first-hand insights into the decision-making process in Brussels, the roles of the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as the ways business associations and civil society represent their interests. Key processes under the European Green Deal and their expected impact on member states will also be highlighted, and the tour will offer an excellent opportunity for networking and contact building.

Programme

Monday, 5 December 2022

afternoon	Individual arrival and transfer to the hotel check-in time is at 15h and check-out time at 12h	Hotel NH Berlaymont Boulevard Charlemagne - Karel de Grotelaan, 11- 19, 1000 Brüssel (+32 2 231 09 09) nhbrusselseuberlaymont@nh-hotels.com
18:30	Meeting in the hotel lobby and walk/transfer to the dinner location Attire: Casual	Restaurant Le Botaniste Bailli
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome Dinner & Getting to know each other Welcome by Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) and Ecologic Institute, tour de table and introduction to the programme <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Clemens Schöll, Journalism Programme Manager, Clean Energy Wire</i>• <i>Sören Haffer, Senior Events Manager, Ecologic Institute</i>	Rue du Bailli 10, 1000 Brussels

Tue, 6 December 2022

9:00	<p>Meet in the hotel lobby and walk to the Council of the European Union, General Secretariat / Registration and Accreditation</p> <p>Attire: Business</p> <p>Please bring your passport/identity card</p>	
9:30	Arrival and registration	175 Rue de la Loi
10:00	<p>Council of the European Union</p> <p>Presentation of functioning and activities with focus on press services and products</p> <p><i>Arianne Sikken, press officer for Competitiveness (Internal market, Industry, Research and Space)</i></p>	venue: Lipsius room
10:30	<p>Focus on Energy</p> <p><i>Johanna Store, press officer for Environment and Climate Change, Energy</i></p>	
11:00	Guided tour of Council's press premises (including Europa building)	
11:20 – 12:30	<p>The EU's Fit for 55 legislative package in the energy crisis – a stocktake</p> <p><i>Andreas Graf, Senior Associate EU Energy Policy, Agora Energiewende</i></p> <p>⇒ Proposed in 2021 and comprising roughly 20 different files, the EU's Fit for 55 legislative package makes up the heart of the European Green Deal agenda, addressing all sectors of the economy and putting in place the core policies measures for delivering the EU's 2030 climate and energy targets. With some files agreed and soon to be adopted, the Fit for 55 Package is far advanced in the EU legislative process, making it a good time to carry out a general stock take of the climate ambition that remains from the initial European Commission proposals. This session will broadly attempt to address such questions as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the Fit for 55 package weathered the energy crisis? Has it been weakened or strengthened by current events? • How does the Fit for 55 package relate to the EU's REPowerEU initiative on other EU efforts to address the energy crisis? • What does the Fit for 55 package mean for Member States and the EU climate policy agenda going forward? 	
12:30-13:15	Lunch (location tbd)	

13:15 – 13:40	Walk to the EU Commission / Group Photo / Registration and Accreditation	Charlemagne Building 13:40 :
13:55	<p>The inner workings of the EU’s energy and climate policy- from the perspective of the European Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and presentation of the programme <i>Ms Nicole Peil, Visitors' Centre of the European Commission, Directorate general for Communication</i> 	Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 170, 1000 Brussels
14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission as the political executive of the EU <i>Mr. Petr Mooz, Directorate general for Budget</i> 	
15:15	Break	
15:30 -17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have reduced fossil energy supplies from Russia derailed or assisted EU climate policy? • Alternative energy supplies, how are the EU's responses to the climate and energy crisis being balanced? <i>Mr. Tim Mc Phie, Spokesperson for climate action and energy, Directorate general for Communication</i> <p>⇒ These sessions at the EC will present different aspects of EU policy. The introductory background should provide a reminder of the general framework for how the EU institutions work – a basis for everything to follow. The content session will then zoom in on different aspects and present mainly the Commission perspective.</p>	
19:00 – 21:00	Networking reception with Brussels based journalists	Kamilou at Art-Loi 36 rue Joseph II, 1000 Bruxelles
21:00	End of programme – time for a drink at the bar	

Wed, 7 December 2022

7:30	<p>Meet in the hotel lobby and transfer to the European Parliament</p> <p>Attire: Business</p> <p>Please bring your passport/identity card</p>	<p>European Parliament, rue de Trèves 3 (place du Luxembourg), 1050 Brüssel</p>
8:00	<p>Meet for accreditation at the accreditation Centre of the European Parliament. Every participant will receive a sticker to wear for that day and we will enter the building together.</p> <p>⇒ The morning of our second day will give you an inside and on-site perspective to the workings of the European Parliament – through direct interactions with Members (MEPs) from different political groups.</p>	
8:30 -10:00	<p>A view from the inside of the European Parliament</p>	
8:30	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Simon McKeagney, Head of Communications for the Greens/EFA</i> • <i>Pia Kohorst, German-language Media Advisor and Press Officer, specializing in climate and energy topics</i> 	
8:35 -10:00	<p>Meeting European Parliamentarians (Greens/EFA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ciarán Cuffe (Ireland), Parliament's current Rapporteur for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings Directive.</i> <i>Committees: Industry, Transport, Regional Development</i> • <i>Bas Eickhout (The Netherlands), Vice Chair of the Greens/EFA</i> <i>Committees: Economic, Budget, Environment & Health</i> 	
10:00 -11:30	<p>Meeting European Parliamentarians (continued)</p>	
10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Seán Kelly, Group of the European People's Party (EPP) (Ireland)</i> 	
11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tiemo Wölken (Germany), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)</i> <i>Committees: Environment & Health</i> 	
11:30 – 12:15	<p>Meeting with the Directorate-General for Communication of the European Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jacob Lolck, Press officer, Spokesperson's Unit</i> 	

12:15 – 12:40	Guided tour in the European Parliament
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at EPC
14:00 – 14:30	<p>European Policy Centre (EPC): welcome and intro</p> <p><i>Melanie Fessler and Stefan Sipka, Policy Analysts at the EPCs Sustainable Prosperity for Europe Programme</i></p>
14:30 – 15:15	<p>The limits of replacing natural gas use in the chemical industry: how to overcome the supply shortage and progressing towards climate neutrality</p> <p><i>Nicola Rega – Director of Energy, The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)</i></p> <p>⇒ A business perspective from the chemical industry where natural gas is used for energy generation and as a feedstock. The session will focus on the implications for the chemical industry of the current natural gas delivery and price crisis, measures already taken and envisioned to address these and their synergies and conflicts with the objective to move towards net zero emissions by 2050 the latest.</p>
15:15 -16:00	<p>Energy security: How Europe’s economy can be powered in a climate-friendly way</p> <p><i>Rheanna Johnston, Policy Advisor for EU energy transition, E3G</i></p> <p>⇒ Having heard the industry view, this session will provide a critical reflection on a climate-friendly energy supply – and showcase the work of a Brussels based think tank with a green mission.</p>
16:00 -16:30	Closing session
16:30	End of the programme and individual departure

Organisers and staff

1	Haffer	Sören	Ecologic Institute	Germany
2	Kyllmann	Carolina	Clean Energy Wire (CLEW)	Germany
4	Schöll	Clemens	Clean Energy Wire (CLEW)	Germany
3	Schneider	Boris	Clean Energy Wire (CLEW)	Germany

Additional Information



Clean Energy Wire provides well-researched, fact-based and unbiased information as well as support for international journalists reporting on decarbonisation and the energy transition in Germany. We believe that quality journalism plays a key role in productive domestic and international debates, which are essential for the successful transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Clean Energy Wire is committed to the highest standards in journalism. Our charter sets out the guiding principles of our work, including independence from commercial, political or other special interests.

As an independent non-profit and non-partisan organisation, the Clean Energy Wire can offer its services free of charge thanks to its funders, Stiftung Mercator (stiftung-mercator.de) and the European Climate Foundation (europeanclimate.org). Its seat is in Berlin.



Clemens Schöll, Journalism Programme Manager, Clean Energy Wire

Clemens A. Schöll is Journalism Programme Manager at Clean Energy Wire. He is organizing study trips, conferences and different types of on- and offline trainings. Previously, he was organizing programs for journalists from and in Central and Eastern Europe. As a journalist, he worked for many different media outlets, including dpa, Stiftung Warentest and Thüringer Allgemeine. Languages: German, English - and a bit of Polish...



Boris Schneider, European Journalism Project Manager, Clean Energy Wire

Boris Schneider is at the centre of the team's international and cross-border activities as European Journalism Project Manager. Previously, he has coordinated initiatives to boost climate journalism in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe as part of n-ost - a Berlin-based network for cross-border journalism. Before that, he worked as a specialist on Eastern European climate and energy topics, as well as for navos Public Dialogue Consultants and the German Economic Team at Berlin Economics. He holds an MSc in Economics from the Free University of Berlin. Together with two climate journalists, he is also running a monthly podcast focused on climate news from Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet space: [The Eurasian Climate Brief](#).



Carolina Kyllmann, Staff Correspondent, Clean Energy Wire

Carolina Kyllmann is a staff Correspondent for Clean Energy Wire. Before joining CLEW, she was the Deputy Editor of fitness magazine BOXROX, where she helped quadruple reach and engagement. At home with digital publications and after years of backing diverse climate-friendly initiatives around the world, she has made the transition into climate reporting. She holds a First-Class [BA](#) in Journalism Studies from the University of Sheffield



Ecologic Institute is a private not-for-profit think tank for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy with offices in Berlin, Brussels and Washington DC. An independent, non-partisan body, Ecologic Institute brings fresh ideas to environmental and sustainable development policies. Ecologic Institute's work covers the entire spectrum of environmental issues, including the integration of environmental concerns into other policy fields.

Ecologic Institute was founded in 1995 and collaborates closely with other European and international bodies, including active participation as a member of the Ecological Research Network (Ecornet). Today, the more than 100 individuals at Ecologic Institute work in a variety of international and interdisciplinary project teams.

Official website: <http://ecologic.eu/>



Sören Haffer, Senior Events Manager, Ecologic Institute

Sören Haffer is Senior Events Manager and Coordinator, Transatlantic Events. He has worked with Ecologic Institute since 2007 and has many years of professional experience in conceptualizing, organizing, and implementing international events in various formats and sizes. Sören Haffer is responsible for Ecologic Institute's Public Diplomacy activities that include study tours, media dialogues, summer schools, and other exchange-oriented dialogue formats. Sören Haffer works in English and German and has knowledge of Polish and Spanish.



Agora Energiewende is a think tank that develops evidence-based and politically viable strategies to advance the goal of climate neutrality in Germany, Europe, and the rest of the world. We inform policymakers, economists, researchers, and civil society while encouraging a productive exchange of ideas. Our policy proposals are practical and free of prior ideological commitments. We are a non-profit organisation funded by foundations and public institutions and hence are beholden neither to business nor to politics. Our exclusive mission is to serve the climate. Agora Energiewende develops robust policy proposals for decarbonising the economy. In doing so, we rely on the targets set by the German government and the European Union and on research carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Since its founding in 2012, Agora Energiewende has become one of Europe's leading energy and climate policy think tanks. Over the years, we have developed many proposals and presented them to the public. We have also forged a growing network of partner organisations that perform similar functions in their own countries. In addition to research, Agora Energiewende promotes dialogue and public relations in its capacity as a go-between for decision-makers, interest groups, researchers, and media. Our dedicated team, which is composed of over 100 members, provides answers to questions that are decisive for the clean-energy transition and a climate-neutral industry, be they economic, technological, or political. Because no single institution can completely apprehend the complexity of the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, Agora Energiewende cultivates intensive discussions with the most important interest groups from politics, civil society, economics, and science. The key question guiding the discussions is which climate and energy policies can ensure a rapid transformation of the economy towards climate neutrality.

Website: <https://www.agora-energiewende.de>



Andreas Graf, Senior Associate EU Energy Policy, Agora Energiewende

Andreas Graf supports the work of Agora Energiewende on EU Energy Policy by helping to develop scientifically based and politically feasible recommendations for policy-makers in Brussels using lessons from the German energy transition. From 2014 to early 2017 Andreas Graf was a Researcher at the environmental policy think-tank Ecologic Institute in Berlin supporting research projects and dialogue processes on German and EU energy policy. He has also worked as a Blue Book Trainee in the Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and as an International Parliamentary Fellow in the German Bundestag. Andreas Graf studied political science, environmental studies, and Germanic languages & literatures in Germany, the US, Japan, and India, and holds a Master in International Relations from the Freie Universität Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the University of Potsdam.



Group of the European People's Party (EPP)

The Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group) is the largest and oldest group in the European Parliament. Our roots reach back to Europe's Founding Fathers – Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer – and our Members come from all of Europe's Member States. A centre-right group, we are committed to creating a stronger Europe, built on its people. After all, our people are our economy and the people of Europe are the largest economy in the world. Our goal is to create a more competitive and democratic Europe, where people can build the life they want. We want to give everyone an equal chance to succeed including family firms, small businesses, innovators, inventors, researchers, scientists and self-employed, amongst others. Equally, we want to provide a safety net for anyone who is struggling. We see the European continent as a place where people travel, do business, invest, learn from each other, buy, sell, collaborate and team up.

Seán Kelly, MEP, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

He first elected to the European Parliament in June 2009 for Ireland South, contributing to an historic victory for Fine Gael in the European Elections, polling 92,579 first preferences. He was re-elected to this position for a second term in May 2014 and a third in May 2019, topping the poll once again with 118,444 first preferences. In the European Parliament, he sits on the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee, the International Trade Committee (INTA) and the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO). He is also a member of the European Parliament Delegations for relations with South Africa, the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He is a member of the EPP Group, the largest and most influential Group in the European Parliament. He is also Leader of Fine Gael in the European Parliament; a role he was first appointed to by then Taoiseach Enda Kenny in August 2014.

In his time in the European Parliament, he has led on important policy work, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), setting the 2030 target for Renewable Energy, finalising the EU's €650 billion InvestEU programme, and securing a majority in favour of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He has also been heavily involved in Climate Action, and have been nominated to represent Parliament at three UNFCCC Conferences: COP21 in Paris, COP22 in Marrakesh and COP24 in Poland.

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D)

The S&D Group is the leading centre-left political group in the European Parliament and the second largest. The S&D Group stands for an inclusive European society based on principles like:

Our MEPs are committed to fighting for social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reform and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for everyone. In today's times of crisis, the S&D Group's priority is to fight unemployment and ensure that our societies and markets become fairer. We want to give people back trust in the EU and hope for their future. These principles inspire our daily work, in the European Parliament and beyond.



Tiemo Wölken, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats

Tiemo Wölken (born 5.12.1985 in Otterndorf) has been a member of the SPD since 2004 and was already active in the Jusos before that. Among other things, he was one of the co-founders of the SPD Youth Association Buxtehude and between 2006 and 2010 was deputy state chairman of the Jusos Lower Saxony. After graduating from high school, the Otterndorf-born politician moved to Osnabrück to study law. There, Tiemo Wölken is currently active as a member of the Weser-Ems SPD district executive committee. In November 2016, he moved up to the European Parliament for the Weser-Ems district. As a member and spokesman for the Socialist Group in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and the Committee on Legal Affairs, Tiemo Wölken is particularly committed to a sustainable climate policy and European legal standards. He places particular emphasis on digital policy. Tiemo Wölken lives in Osnabrück.

The European Chemical Industry (Cefic)

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for approximately about 15% of world chemicals production.

**E3G**

E3G is an independent climate change think tank operating to accelerate the global transition to a low carbon economy. E3G are the independent experts on climate diplomacy and energy policy. Our senior leadership has a combined 75 years experience advising Government, business and NGOs and a wealth of insight into what climate change means for societies.

E3G works to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. We build the broad based coalitions necessary to deliver a safe climate, we bring independence to an extremely polarised discussion, and we hold policy makers to account on their promises. E3G works closely with like-minded partners in government, politics, civil society, science, the media, public interest foundations and elsewhere. E3G is a European organisation with a global outlook and reach. We currently have offices in London, Brussels, Berlin and Washington DC, together with a regular presence in China.

Website: <https://www.e3g.org/>



Rheanna Johnston, Policy Advisor for the EU energy transition, E3G

Rheanna focuses on EU climate and energy policy, and especially on advocacy for a clean energy future and a transition away from fossil gas. Her work includes research, stakeholder engagement and advocacy on energy transition politics, as well as developing analysis and overall strategy for a clean energy future. She was previously the European Green Party's Climate Campaigner, where she worked on communications and capacity building on topics related to energy poverty, fossil fuel phase-out, and climate neutrality. She previously also worked with UNIDO's Global Cleantech Innovation Programme, coordinated utility energy efficiency programmes, campaigned for carbon pricing and 100% clean energy in Washington state (USA), and co-founded a tenant's rights union. Rheanna has an MSc in Environmental Management and Policy from the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University (Sweden), and a BA from Western Washington University (USA) in Environmental Policy and International Studies.

Logistical Information

HOTEL

The group will stay at **Hotel NH Berlaymont**, located at Boulevard Charlemagne - Karel de Grotelaan, 11-19, 1000 Brüssel, Tel.: +32 2 231 09 09

nhbrusselseuberlaymont@nh-hotels.com

The hotel is not far away from the city center of Brussels, in the middle of the European Quarter. There is a variety of bars, restaurants, shops and opportunities for sightseeing nearby.

The Metro stop nearest to the hotel is called Schuman. The train station Brux. Schuman is a 10 minute walk away (see below).

AIRPORT TRANSFER

Central Brussels is easy to reach from the airport via bus. Transfer time: About 30 minutes to the Hotel with the busline 12 towards Brussels City

For more information about departure at the airport:

<https://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passengers/access-parking/train>

From the bus station it is a 2 minute walk.

TAXI

In Brussels, there are many taxi stands on the side of the main streets. It is also safe to hail a cab from the street. Alternatively, call a cab via one of the following numbers:

Autolux (+32 (0)2 411 41 42 / +32 (0)2 512 31 23), Unitax-Brabant (+32 (0)2 715 40 40)