

The new EU Commission's climate drive: What does it mean for member countries?

Research tour for journalists organised by the Clean Energy Wire in cooperation with the European Climate Foundation and the Ecologic Institute

from 02 Dec to 04 Dec 2019 in Brussels, Belgium

Overview

Climate action has soared to the top of the agenda in many countries as millions of mostly young people have taken to the streets. In December, a new European Commission will take office in Brussels, and president-elect Ursula von der Leyen has pledged to put climate policy at the centre of the next five years. But how ambitious are the Commission's plans? What is the business sector's take on the new climate drive? How do international climate experts assess the plans? And how will EU decisions shape national energy, mobility and climate debates and actions in the member states? This research tour for journalists, jointly organised with the European Climate Foundation and Ecologic Institute, offers an introduction to relevant institutions, actors and topics and will equip participants with background and contacts to cover EU climate, energy and transport policy from their respective home countries.

The incoming European Commission is set to take office on 1 December. Ursula von der Leyen, the first woman to become Commission president, has vowed to make climate action a cornerstone of her political agenda, with several key projects being started in the first 100 days in office. These include a European Green Deal, setting a new goal of climate neutrality and enshrining it in a European Climate Law, as well as adopting a Climate Pact.

Support from member states for this ambitious platform is by no means guaranteed. EU member states remain divided on whether to increase ambition on climate and even the progressive ones still need to actually adopt stronger and more effective measures at home to meet the next set of emission reduction targets.

Decisions at EU level on energy and climate policy determine significantly what can and must happen at the country level. What happens in Brussels is of key importance for national policy – and understanding the politics and the actors crucial for the debates and their impact on domestic issues.

This research tour will provide essential background on EU energy and climate policymaking and cover topics of relevance to national policies. The tour aims to answer the following questions:

- How does Brussels policy-making work, what are the roles of the European Commission and the Parliament? And how do business associations and civil society represent their interest in the political process?
- What are the key climate policy related processes under the new European Commission and how are they expected to influence member states
- How is EU policy influencing the security of energy supply in Europe - and what is the role of natural gas in this context?
- How can EU-level action shape the future of transport at all levels of the economy, developing new technologies and supporting the necessary infrastructure?

NOTE: Timing of individual meetings and some appointments are still to be confirmed and subject to change

Programme

Monday, 2 December 2019

afternoon	Individual arrival and transfer to the hotel	Ibis Brussels City Center, Joseph Plateaustraat 2, 1000 Brussels Tel: +32 2 550 11 10
19:00	Meeting in the hotel lobby and walk/transfer to the Restaurant Chez Leon Attire: Casual	Restaurant Chez Leon tbc Rue des bouchers 18 B-1000 Brussels https://www.chezleon.be Tel.: +32(0) 2 511 14 15
19:30 – 21:30	Welcome Dinner & Getting to know each other Welcome by Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) and Ecologic Institute, tour de table and introduction to the programme <i>Sven Egenter, Editor in Chief and Executive Director, Clean Energy Wire</i> <i>Katrin Riegger, Head, Communications Department of the ECF in Germany</i> <i>Matthias Duwe, Head, Climate, Ecologic Institute</i>	

Tue, 3 December 2019

8:00	Meeting in the hotel lobby and transfer to the EU Commission Attire: Business Please bring your passport	Visitors' centre, Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 170, 1040 Brussels
9:00 – 12:45	The inner workings of the EU's energy and climate policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the EU create and implement energy and climate policy? <i>A general introduction to the institutions and presentation of the new Commission (individual speaker to be confirmed)</i> • Leader to laggard? EU climate policy in the global context <i>Representative of Directorate-General for Climate (DG CLIMA)</i> • How the EU plans to keep the lights on: energy security in EU <i>Representative of Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)</i> 	
12:45 – 13:15	Walk/transfer to the European Climate Foundation	Address: see next page
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch	European Climate Foundation (ECF)

14:00 – 15:00	<p>The voice of the people: How the European Parliament shapes the energy and climate agenda. Background briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Linda Kalcher, Director EU Institutional Relations, European Climate Foundation and/or</i> • <i>Linda McAvan, Executive Director for European Relations and former Member of the European Parliament, European Climate Foundation</i> 	<p>ECF, Rue de la Science 23, 1040 Brussels</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Buffer/Coffee Break</p>	
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Future EU mobility policies: Perspectives of the car industry</p> <p>Please note: This meeting is OFF THE RECORD</p> <p><i>Representative of the Automotive Industry, Brussels Representation.</i></p> <p><i>This meeting will give voice to a corporate view on EU policy, focusing on the future of transportation under stringent climate policy.</i></p>	
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Coffee Break</p>	
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Driving the mobility change – How the EU sets the pace for climate friendly transport</p> <p><i>Carlos Calvo Ambel, Director, Trends and Analysis, European Federation for Transport & Environment (T&E)</i></p> <p><i>Eoin Bannon, Media Manager, T&E</i></p>	
18:00 – 18:30	<p>Walk to Restaurant L'Atelier (Room Monnet)</p>	<p>Restaurant L'Atelier, Rue Franklin 28, 1000 Brussels T: +32 (0) 2 734 91 40</p>
18:30 – 21:00	<p>Covering Brussels – EU correspondents report</p> <p>Networking dinner with Brussels based journalists</p>	<p>Room Monnet</p>
21:00	<p>End of programme – time for a drink at the bar</p>	<p>Metro to the hotel: Line 1 or 5 from Schuman to Sainte Catherine</p>

Wed, 4 December 2019

8:00	<p>Meeting in the hotel lobby and transfer to the EP*</p> <p>Attire: Business</p> <p>Please bring your passport</p> <p><i>*Please check out beforehand, if you depart in the evening. You have the possibility to store your luggage at the IBIS, but could also bring it to Hotel Leopold (near EU parliament) for the day- that allows to easily pick it up at the end of the day, as we will have most meetings in the afternoon there.</i></p>	<p>European Parliament, rue de Trèves 3 (place du Luxembourg), 1050 Brüssel</p>
8:40	<p>Meet at main entrance in front of Altiero Spinelli Building</p>	<p>Rebecca Fox from Greens/EFA meets us in front of entrance and guides to the press conference</p>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>International climate negotiations COP25 in Madrid</p> <p>Press conference/breakfast briefing by the Greens/EFA</p> <p><i>With MEPs from the Group of the Greens/EFA who will join the COP25 in Madrid (MEP Bas Eickhout, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (Netherlands); MEP Michael Bloss, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (Germany))</i></p>	
10:30 – 12:30	<p>A view from the inside: Meeting European Parliamentarians</p> <p><i>10:30 – 11:00: Peter Liese, Group of the European People's Party (EPP) (Germany)</i></p> <p><i>11:00 – 12:00: Jutta Paulus (Germany) and Alexandra Rosenfield Phillips (UK), Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance</i></p> <p><i>12:00 – 12:30: Miriam Dalli, Vice-Chair, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) (Malta)</i></p>	<p>Room ASP 05 M 068 located at Altiero Spinelli Building, 5th floor, Area M</p>
12:30	<p>Walk to Hotel Leopold Brussels</p>	
12:45	<p>Keeping up the pressure: How civil society shapes Europe's climate agenda: Lunch talk with</p> <p><i>Wendel Trio, Director, Climate Action Network Europe</i></p>	<p>Leopold Brussels EU, Rue du Luxembourg 35, 1050 Bruxelles, Tel +32 2 546 18 16</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Long-term energy fix or mine-field of conflicts: The role of natural gas in energy security</p> <p><i>Marina Demidova, Communications Advisor, Eurogas</i></p>	<p>Leopold Brussels EU</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Buffer/Coffee Break</p>	
15:30 -16:30	<p>Energy security: How Europe's economy can be powered in a climate-friendly way</p> <p><i>Elisa Gianelli, Researcher, E3G</i></p>	<p>Leopold Brussels EU</p>



16:30 Walk to European Climate Foundation

ECF, Rue de la Science
23, 1040 Brussels

17:15 **We need a positive vision – for Europe and the planet: an international perspective on a climate neutral Europe**

Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation(tbc)

18:00 **End of the programme and individual departure**