

Panel Discussion

The European Union's energy and climate policy for 2030 – ambition or apathy?

Wednesday, 2nd July 2014, 18.30 hrs, Johannes Gutenberg-University
Mainz – Atrium Maximum / Alte Mensa

For over a decade, discussions on binding targets for CO₂ emissions and renewable energy shares have been conducted at national and supranational level. Resulting from this, all EU member states agreed on the famous 20-20-20 goals of the EU's climate and energy package of 2009.

The three key objectives are a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%, and a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. This came as a surprise and was considered an ambitious set of goals.

In January 2014 however, the European Commission published its proposal for the follow-up of the years after 2020. It set new targets of a 40% carbon emissions cut and of a 27% share of renewable energy sources by 2030 and no binding goals for energy efficiency.

Is the EU suddenly lacking ambition in the field of energy and climate policy? Considering the fact that most member states are currently on track with reaching the 2020 targets, should the 2030 targets not be more aspiring? And, most importantly, do the goals suffice to tackle climate change, prevent a temperature rise of more than two degrees and reduce energy dependency? And, at the global level, (how) can the EU retain a leadership role in UN climate change negotiations, especially in view of next year's international climate change agreement?

Welcome and Introductory Remarks:

Prof. Dr. Arne Niemann, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Elisabeth Bittner, Landeszentrale für politische Bildung RLPPanel

Talk:

Dipl.-Ing. Anja Folz, Abteilungsleiterin Fachinformation und Netzwerke
Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz

Dr. Oliver Diehl, Oberregierungsrat im Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF). Ehemaliger Leiter des FONABüros Brüssel

Moderation:

Dr. Wolfgang Munro, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz



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