



NDC ASPECTS and 4i-TRACTION have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreements No 101003866 and 101003884.

Managing the transition to net zero: EU climate policy in a global context

Policy & Research Dialogue Conference

9-10 July 2024, VUB U-residence, Brussels (hybrid)

Registration ([click here](#))

The transition to climate neutrality has become a central objective for EU policy-making. Targets and policies to achieve it have been advanced and accelerated over the past 4 years. Despite the crises faced since 2020, the EU is making the shift from incremental changes and refinements to the transformative policies needed for a net-zero emissions future – seeking to become more resilient and competitive through a successful transition.

The move to clean energy and new technologies is being spurred on in other parts of the world, with ac like the USA and China actively financing the transition. Partners around the world are watching EU policy developments closely – which increasingly have international implications (#CBAM). With the implementation of the Paris Agreement moving forward, new contributions are expected in financial and policy terms. The next legislative cycle needs to take crucial decisions on how to move EU policy forward in this context.

This conference, taking place a month after the European elections, seeks to spotlight key issues in the EU's transition to climate neutrality – and discuss options to address them, with a global context in mind. The conversations among policy-makers and other stakeholders will be kicked-off by content inputs from two EU-funded research projects, 4i-TRACTION and NDC ASPECTS, that have been working over the past three years to generate new insights on climate action challenges in Europe and globally.

Join us in Brussels for this Policy & Research Dialogue Conference on the 9th (13:00 – 18:00) and 10th July 2024 (9:00 – 16:00).

Kindly **register in advance** [via this online form](#).

*In-person participants are invited to a light lunch before the start of the conference and a **reception** at the end of the first day, as well as lunch on the second day. Remote participation will also be available.*

The programme (see preliminary agenda on the next page) is split into two subthemes

- Day 1: EU policy focus – **investments, infrastructure, and international integration**
- Day 2: Global policy focus – **hard to abate sectors, action by major emitters, cooperation**



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Agenda

Day 1: Moving towards transformative climate policy in the EU – Tuesday, 9th July 2024

12:30 – 13:30	<i>Registration and a light lunch for in-person participants</i>
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Opening & welcome NDC Aspects and 4i-TRACTION</p> <p>Keynote: A resilient climate policy for a just transition to climate neutrality Yvon Slingenberg, (Acting) Deputy Director-General DG CLIMA (confirmed) followed by Q&A with the audience</p> <p>Context: Scientific analysis to support effective policy-making for the transition. Showcasing the perspectives of 4i-TRACTION and NDC Aspects – representatives from both projects</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<p>EU Focus: Making EU climate policy fit for the transition Key insights and recommendations from the 4i-TRACTION project for the next EU legislative cycle, presented by Benjamin Görlach, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute</p>
14:45 – 15:30	<p>Thematic Session 1: An EU Climate Investment Agenda The EU faces a climate investment deficit of at least €406 billion, while new priorities like defence compete for existing funds. While the needs are evident and large, the future of EU climate investments is uncertain, with NextGenEU running out and many Member States consolidating their budgets. This thematic session explores the investment challenge, and what actions the EU could take to tackle it. <i>Content input:</i> Clara Calipel, I4CE (confirmed) <i>Expert responses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miguel Gil Tertre, Chief Economist, DG ENER (confirmed) Suzana Carp, Head EU Policy, Cleantech for Europe (confirmed)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 16:45	<p>Thematic Session 2: An Integrated EU Energy Infrastructure Policy Transforming the EU's energy infrastructure to match the needs of a climate-neutral economy requires substantial changes and investments. However, these efforts face several major challenges, including insufficient funding, coordination failures, and long lead times. This panel will explore how these challenges could be overcome. <i>Content input:</i> Bettina Kampman, CE Delft (confirmed) <i>Expert responses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> François Beaudé, Strategy Lead, ACER (confirmed) Savannah Altwater, Head of Distribution & Market Facilitation, EURELECTRIC (confirmed)

16:45 – 17:50	<p>Future Policy Panel: Effective EU Climate Policymaking in a Competitive Global Context</p> <p>The EU has moved towards transformative policymaking with the Fit-For-55 package. However, with the new EU legislative cycle about to start it faces major domestic and global headwinds. This panel explores ways to improve EU climate policy in a context of geopolitical shifts and economic competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marta Torres Gunfaus, Director, Climate Change Programme, IDDRI (confirmed) • Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, Member of the European Parliament, S&D group (requested) • Representative by DG CLIMA, European Commission (requested) <p><i>Moderated by Matthias Duwe (Ecologic Institute)</i></p>
17:50 – 18:00	Closing of Day 1: Wrap-up and outlook
18:00 – 19:00	<i>Reception</i>

Day 2: Global Climate Action – Tuesday, 10th July 2024

8:30 – 9:00	<i>Welcome and Coffee</i>
9:00 – 9:15	<p>Reconnecting: Considering EU Policy in a Global Context</p> <p>Brief recap of Day 1 highlights and outlook on Day 2</p>
9:15 – 10:30	<p>Thematic Session 3: New Messages for the “Hard to Abate” Sectors</p> <p>Transport, emission intensive industries, buildings, and agriculture, forestry & land-use are highly emitting sectors but have so far made only limited progress in reducing their emissions. This session will consist of a series of “lightning talks” exploring how mitigation efforts in these sectors can be advanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of global green iron trade in the context of a near-zero steel industry, Georg Holtz (Wuppertal Institute) • Freight and logistics decarbonization should become a high priority of national transport strategies, Yann Briand (IDDRI - Sciences Po) • The potential of lighter vehicles in different global regions, Isheeka Dasgupta et al. (DLR – German Aerospace Center) • Catalysing deep renovations of buildings, propositions from a Gender Impact Assessment, Faidra Filippidou (E3 Modelling), Stefan Kronshage (DLR – German Aerospace Center) et al. • Mitigation potential of forest-based measures under constraining factors, Théo Rouhette et al. (BC3 - Basque Centre for Climate Change) <p><i>Moderated by Stefan Kronshage (DLR – German Aerospace Center)</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	<p>Thematic Session 4: Action Taken by Other Major Emitters</p> <p>All Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to submit new or enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2025. This session will explore the current status and future prospects in key non-EU countries.</p> <p><i>Key insights on Paris-compatible mitigation pathways</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Harry-Villain and Clara Lepin (IDDRI - Sciences Po) <p><i>Roundtable with national experts providing country-specific inputs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryce McCall (University of Cape Town) • Teng Fei (Tsinghua University)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryna Cui (University of Maryland) • Gelang Dewi (Bandung Institute of Technology, TBC) • Saritha Sudharma Vishwanathan (Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad)
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 14:15	<p>Thematic Session 5: Bending the Global Curve</p> <p>Global emissions need to be reduced rapidly to keep the Paris temperature limit within reach. This session will share newest insights into how to bend the global emissions curve and implications for the sustainable development goals.</p> <p><i>Accelerating sectoral clean tech investments to align the world with a 1.5C pathway</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimon Keramidas (European Commission (JRC) & University Grenoble Alpes) <p><i>Evolution of global mitigation strategies, global pathways and SDG implications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirk-Jan van de Veen (BC3 - Basque Centre for Climate Change) • Panagiotis Fragkos (E3 Modelling)
14:15 – 14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Thematic Session 6: Avenues for International Cooperation</p> <p>Enhancing international cooperation is crucial for closing the mitigation gap. This session will consist of a series of “lightning talks” exploring how international cooperation can be enhanced in key avenues beyond the UNFCCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Race at All Costs? Economic and Environmental Effects of Industrial Policy Nationalism, Panagiotis Fragkos (E3M) and Lukas Hermwille (WI) • Towards Minilateral Climate Governance? Analysing Climate Club Design Options through the lens of CBDR-RC, Catherine Hall (University of Eastern Finland) • Prospects for international cooperation on restricting fossil fuel supply, Harro van Asselt (Cambridge University) • Reflections on the EU role in the world, Benjamin Görlach (Ecologic Institute) • Representative by DG CLIMA, European Commission (requested) <p><i>Moderated by Sebastian Oberthür (VUB)</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Closing