

# REPORT

## The Future of EU energy and climate policy

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018, 16:00 – 18:00

Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

- The panel discussion titled „ The Future of EU energy and climate policy”, organized by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, took place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018. The debate reflected on effective ways to meet the Paris commitments and balance the development of all clean technologies while ensuring security of energy supplies.
- The event featured H.E. Jaroslav Zajíček, Pierre Schellekens (Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Arias Cañete, European Commission), Václav Bartuška (Czech Republic's Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security), Haitze J Siemers (Head of Unit New energy technologies, innovation and clean coal, DG Energy) and Mark Copley (Deputy Director, Energy and Climate Change Directorate, UK). Kateřina Davidová from EUROPEUM took on the moderation. More than 80 people participated in the discussion.

H.E. Jaroslav Zajíček opened the event by reminding the audience that the long-term plan set in the Paris agreement defined the objectives and gave the EU member states (and all other signatories) a set of homework – some were successfully completed, but a lot is left to be done. He went on to stress that in order to speed up decarbonization, much higher carbon price will be needed.

The keynote speech was provided by **Pierre Schellekens**, Deputy Head of Cabinet of

Commissioner Arias Cañete, European Commission. He stated that the European Commission would like to primarily finalize the adoption of the so-called Winter Package from 2016. Furthermore, the Commission is going to publish its long-term emission reduction strategy at the end of November, outlining scenarios of reducing emissions by 2050. However, Mr. Schellekens also stated that no new binding target will be agreed before the end of this Commission. Mr. Schellekens noted that the COP 24 summit in



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic

*The project was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic in the framework of public diplomacy  
projects within Czech foreign policy and international relations*



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

Katowice 2018 will be the most important COP since Paris, as it will set legal tools to deliver Paris commitments.

Mr. **Václav Bartuška**, Czech Republic's Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, was the first to take the floor in the panel discussion. He started by acknowledging that politicians are facing difficult choices when they try to achieve meaningful goals and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions without jeopardizing the living standards of their citizens. Mr. Bartuška also warned that Europe is increasingly losing its competitiveness in fields crucial for energy security – products, such as solar panels or batteries are now predominantly produced in China.

Next to speak was Mr. **Haitze J Siemers**, Head of Unit New energy technologies, innovation and clean coal, DG Energy. He said that most of the new targets in the Winter Package have been agreed on and the current biggest challenge is to make the right choices in terms of investment and setting up the future MFF, which must serve the objectives by mainstreaming climate protection across the chapters and supporting EU's competitiveness. He noted that most obstacles to the deployment of more renewable energy sources are political and new technologies should be seen as complementary to renewable

energy sources, not as competition. He also highlighted the role of cities in the process of decarbonization – they are keen on innovation and can serve as a lab for changes at a smaller scale, which can then be replicated at larger levels.

Last to speak was Mr. **Mark Copley**, Deputy Director at Energy and Climate Change Directorate of the UK. His main topic was the UK's government Clean Growth Strategy – blueprint for lowering carbon emissions, protecting the environment and meeting the climate change obligations while stimulating growth. Mr. Copley stressed that while being a major challenge, decarbonization of the UK economy presents an enormous economic and industrial opportunity. Clean growth is then not seen as secondary to decarbonization efforts, but as a major global trend.

The beginning of the Q & A session focused on questions of living standards, which are likely to get worse with progressing climate change. The issue of energy poverty was mentioned in that context – panelists agreed that we need to invest into energy efficiency in the poorest areas, because if the market doesn't work for everybody, problems are likely to occur. A need for the EU to lead by example was highlighted as well.

