

# REPORT

## Prague Climate Talks: How will the new European Parliament tackle climate change?

Thursday June 20, 2019, 17:00-18:30  
European House, Jungmannova 24, Praha

- **The ninth debate from the project Prague Climate Talks took place on Thursday 20th June 2019 at the European House. This project is co-organised by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague, under the auspices of the UN Information Centre Prague.**
- **The topic of the ninth debate was "How will the new European Parliament tackle climate change?". The panellists were Linda Kalcher (European Climate Foundation) and Michal Berg (European Greens). The debate was moderated by Kateřina Davidová from EUROPEUM.**

**Linda Kalcher** started with a presentation on the role of the European Parliament in the formulation of EU's climate policy. She highlighted that the Parliament is often the key institution pressing for more ambitious climate goals. It also acts as the voice of the EU citizens and is the most reactive body to citizens' demands. She continued by saying that in the next five years, climate will be a crucial topic for the whole EU. In the new Parliament, there will not be a grand coalition of the two main groups anymore, which means that smaller groups such as the Greens will have more decision-making power. The mobilisation of youth demanding more climate action also creates an unprecedented momentum for climate policy-making.

**Michal Berg** continued by noting that the position of the European Council will be important as well in shaping the future climate policy of the EU and its position might often counter that of the European Parliament. Finding an agreement between the Council and the Parliament will be crucial for any meaningful move forward. Lots of weight now lies on the Central and Eastern European states, which have so far been more reluctant in supporting higher climate targets, even when it meant that their economies might suffer in the future from not adapting to the decarbonisation trends soon enough. Especially Poland and the Czech Republic could be seen as the black sheep of the EU climate family.

The following discussion touched upon questions such as the disinterest of the CEE in climate action and the reasons behind it, what form of public activity is the most

effective for influencing climate policies and the technical requirements for achieving climate neutrality.