

# South Africa-EU Town Hall Meeting on Border Carbon Adjustments

*This meeting is under Chatham House Rules*

**\*\*\*Draft Agenda\*\*\***

**Date:** September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Time:** 14:00 - 16:00 CET

**Location:** Zoom Videoconference

The European Green Deal has strengthened the level of climate ambition, increasing the asymmetry of climate efforts by aiming to achieve climate neutrality in the European Union by 2050. This raises the question of how to deal with competitive pressure and carbon leakage, pushing Border Carbon Adjustments (BCAs) to the front as a possible solution. According to the roadmap for the European Green Deal, a proposal for a BCA for “selected sectors” will be released in 2021. So far, we can only speculate what such a BCA might look like, as few policy details have been released.

ERCST and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) are organising a town hall with speakers from the EU and South Africa in support of examining the role that BCAs may play in addressing asymmetry in climate ambition under the Paris Agreement, with a special focus on the plans of the European Union in this regard. Given the resurgence of discussions about BCAs on the EU political agenda, it is the right time to have a closer look at the various available policy design elements and options, along with the associated environmental, economic, political and legal implications, in order to better understand what type of BCA might work for the EU.

This is the eighth meeting in a series of similar town hall meetings in support of ERCST’s workstream on ‘Border Carbon Adjustments in the EU’. As a European BCA would have global implications, these town hall meetings aim to uncover reactions from different trading partners of the EU to discover the reality of the international views outside the so-called *Brussels’ bubble*. The aim is to facilitate discussion among stakeholders on the objectives, concerns, and options that should be considered when designing a BCA addressing uneven climate policies. The outcome of the discussions will feed into a policy paper on the international views on BCA that ERCST will publish in collaboration with its partners.

ERCST will consider the ideas and conclusions raised during the topic sessions when developing the report.

*ERCST would like to thank Eurofer, Enel, FuelsEurope, the Government of France, the Government of Germany, HeidelbergCement, Metal Invest and Solvay for their support on this project.*

**14:00 CET Welcome and introduction**

- A. Marcu, ERCST
- A. Benkenstein, SAIIA

**14:10 CET ERCST presentation on Border Carbon Adjustments**

ERCST will give a presentation on Border Carbon Adjustments and a possible EU proposal, including the position of different groups in the European Union such as the European Commission, EU Member States and businesses

- A. Marcu, ERCST
- A. Cosbey, ERCST

**14:30 CET Views from EU representatives**

- S. Droege, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
- B. Czyczerski, Business Science Poland

Business representatives from the European Union will present their perspective on Border Carbon Adjustments and explain the rationale behind their point of view.

**14:50 Views from South African stakeholders**

South African stakeholders from different sectors of society will comment on the presentation on BCAs and the intervention from the EU business representatives. They will also give an initial reaction on the position we can expect from South Africa following the establishment of an EU BCA.

- S. Hemraj, Treasury, Government of South Africa
- S. Nichols, National Business Initiative
- A. Gilder, Climate Legal
- R. Louw, Promethium Carbon

**15:30 CET Roundtable discussion and Q&A with participants**

Following the presentations and initial reactions, a moderated roundtable discussion will give participants from both the EU and South Africa the opportunity to interact.

**15:50 CET Concluding remarks and next steps**