

Beyond 40%

Assessing efforts to be Europe's climate leaders

*****Draft Agenda*****

speakers are being confirmed

Date: September 19, 2019

Time: 9:30 – 12:30

Location: University Foundation, rue d'Egmont 11, Brussels

In the context of the Paris Agreement, the European Union (EU) is increasing its efforts towards decarbonisation. Currently, the EU climate strategy is centred around three emissions reduction targets compared to 1990 levels: a cutting GHG emissions by 20% by 2020 and by at least 40% by 2030; and an implicit reduction of 80-95% by 2050. These targets have increasingly been put into question, as many stakeholders are pushing the EU to speed up its decarbonisation efforts and embrace the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. In light of these developments, in November 2018, the Commission communicated its vision for a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

The EU climate and energy targets are being reached through different policies at the EU and Member States (MS) levels. On the one hand, the target and functioning of the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) is set at EU level. On the other hand, targets, such as for non-ETS Sectors (Effort Sharing Regulation – ESR), renewable energy sources (RES) and energy efficiency (EE) are agreed on at the EU level, while the policies to reach these targets are developed and implemented at the Member State level.

Against this backdrop, Member States are implementing mitigation policies, and other policies, which, while maybe not directly targeting climate change, also lead to significant GHG reductions. Member States are outlining their expected reductions both with a 2030 perspective, in the 'national energy and climate plans'; as well as with a 2050 perspective (the so-called 'long-term strategies with a perspective of at least 30 years', due January 1, 2020).

Member States can also decide to unilaterally adopt additional policies on energy and climate matters on top of the EU targets. Examples are more ambitious RES/EE targets set by MS compared to EU-mandated targets, as well as country-wide GHG reduction targets towards 2030/2050.

Other actors can also contribute, independently from the policies that are implemented by Member States or the EU, putting forward more ambitious decarbonisation strategies than what is required under national/EU legislation: local mitigation policies by sub-national entities (e.g. regions or cities), voluntary GHG reductions or RE commitments by companies or other stakeholders, etc.

This meeting marks the start of the new ERCST project 'Beyond 40%', that seeks to:

- assess whether stakeholders are communicating meaningful commitments to go 'Beyond 40%'
- map these commitments by companies, cities, regions and Member States, identifying best practices and no-regret policies
- quantify commitments to the extent possible, and aggregate them

This meeting is an opportunity for ERCST to gather feedback on its methodology to achieve these goals and enable stakeholders to discuss the initial findings of the project.

ERCST will follow up this event with a report, due to be launched on November 18th in Brussels, and discussed across the EU in a limited number of capitals. The final report – which will include feedback from the roundtables across the EU – will be published in February 2020.

9:15 **Registration and coffee**

9:30 **Welcome**

- A. Marcu, Director of ERCST

9:40 **Presentation of ERCST methodology on mapping and assessing commitments**

- Research team

ERCST will present its methodology on how to map the various types of commitments that have been made at different levels, and how to assess and quantify those commitments. Any initial findings by the research team will be shared as well, though the focus will be on discussing the methodology.

This presentation will be followed by a round of initial remarks from selected stakeholders. Topics and questions for these selected stakeholders, and all participants to the brainstorm, include:

- How do we define going “beyond 40%”?
- How to identify and map commitments in your specific area of expertise
- How can commitments be quantified and aggregated, while avoiding double counting between levels of governance?
- What constitutes a credible commitment?
- Best practices and no-regrets options that are easy to copy or scale-up

- N. Bartlett, CDP
- J. Braam, Germany
- A. Affre, Business Europe
- A. Cooper, rapporteur Committee of the Regions
- G. Piccolo, Covenant of Mayors
- P. van Dam, Netherlands
- N. Höhne, Wageningen University

Invitation to the European Commission to comment.

Roundtable discussion with all participants to the workshop

12:30 **Concluding remarks on next steps and end of the meeting**