

The Economics of Climate Change: The Effect of Climate Policy on Innovation, Competitiveness and Employment

What Are the Economic Benefits and
Costs of Climate Policies?

Side Event at the Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris
Venue: EU Pavilion, Hall 2B, Conference Centre, Le Bourget

Wednesday, 9 December 2015, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



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Economics of Climate Change



Florens Flues is an economist at the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. His work aims at helping policy-makers to implement appropriate environmental tax reforms. He recently published reports on the distributional and competitiveness impacts of energy taxes.



Ingmar Jürgens is a Senior Economic Advisor for Economic Governance and the Economics of Energy and Climate Policy at the Representation of the European Commission in Germany, in Berlin. He gained a large experience in international energy and climate policy at various international organisations (tbc).



Oliver Schenker is Acting Head of the ZEW Research Department "Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Management". He co-organised the FP7-funded research project ENTRACTE on the interaction of climate policy instruments. Schenker's main research interests include climate change, international trade and economic growth.



Joachim Schleich is a Professor of Energy Economics at Grenoble Ecole de Management, France, and a senior researcher at Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, ISI, Germany. His research focuses on energy and climate and policy.



Katrin Sommerfeld is a researcher at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW). She is involved in the BMBF's funding priority "The Economics of Climate Change". Her research particularly focuses on the intersection between environmental and labour economics.

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Climate policies have significant repercussions for the economy with notable implications for the optimal design of policies. While climate policies may negatively impact economic competitiveness and employment, they can also inspire environmental innovations and thus have a positive effect on the economy. This session will consider the link between environmental policy measures, competitiveness and employment in Germany – a global forerunner in clean technologies and climate policies.

»» 10:30 Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. René Haak, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Introduction

Katrin Sommerfeld,
Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)

»» 10:45 Panel Debate:

Florens Flues, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ingmar Jürgens, European Commission,
Representation in Germany (tbc)

Oliver Schenker, Centre for
European Economic Research (ZEW)

Joachim Schleich, Fraunhofer Institute for
Systems and Innovation Research (ISI)

Moderator: Katrin Sommerfeld

Debate with Audience Participation

»» 12:00 Lunch Snack



ZEW plays a key role in the research priority programme “Economics of Climate Change” funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). ZEW’s contributions are manifested in four different projects.

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- First, as part of the project “Climate Policy and the Growth Pattern of Nations”, ZEW analyses the nexus between international trade and sustainable economic growth. This project has a number of different dimensions, from the impact of international trade on the effectiveness of unilateral environmental policies, to the spill-over of low-carbon technology resulting from trade.

Project website: www.zew.de/en/projects/1115

- Second, within the project “The Relevance of Voluntary Efforts and Fairness Preferences for the Success of International Climate Policy” ZEW aims at the development of mechanisms for encouraging voluntary contributions to a carbon offsetting programme.

Project website: www.zew.de/en/projects/1200

- The third project, “Evaluating Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Policies”, constitutes the first comprehensive and nationally representative household survey to focus on climate change adaptation in Europe.

Project website: www.zew.de/en/projects/1182

- Finally, ZEW co-organises activities ensuring the synthesis and dissemination of scientific work regarding the field of “Energy Resources and Climate Friendly Energy Supply” within the “Economics of Climate Change” research priority.

Project website: www.zew.de/en/projects/1432

About the “Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Management” Research Department at ZEW

The department is one of the leading climate think tanks worldwide. A key focus is European energy and climate policy. About 20 economists in the Research Department conduct economic assessments of policies which impact the environment; these include transport, energy, technology, and economic policies. Researchers also identify areas of conflict between economic and environmental goals. Given the universal shortage of resources, cost efficiency, that is, the ability of a policy to achieve a goal at minimal cost, and the equitable distribution of costs across society, are key in assessments conducted by the Research Department.



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