

DIALOGUE SEMINAR

Environmental protection and climate change as a challenge for EU policies – the role of ethics, lifestyles, solidarity and global justice

Organised by the Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA), European Commission
jointly with
the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC)
& The Commission of the Episcopates of the European Community (COMECE)
Thursday 17 October 2013, Brussels

Programme

8:45-9:00 **Arrival of participants**

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening and Welcome**

Mr Jean-Claude Thébault, Director General of BEPA
*Rev Patrick H. Daly, Secretary General of the Commission of the Episcopates
of the European Community (COMECE)*
*Dr. Peter Pavlovic, Study Secretary, Church and Society Commission
Conference of European Churches (CEC)*

9:15 – 11:15 **1ST SESSION: What is the role of ethical arguments in the current debate on
protection of environment and tackling of climate change?**

Impacts of the economic and finance crisis, as well as failure of the global community to agree on the follow up of the Kyoto Protocol pushed climate & environment policies out of primary concerns on political agendas. A renewed debate on setting up post-crisis scenarios, the presentation of the new IPCC report, as well as a revitalisation of the global efforts to tackle climate change under the UN mandate in preparation for the next round of the COPs open a new stage in discussing these concerns. Churches play an active role in this process emphasizing an ethical and holistic approach. What is the reaction of stakeholders to the latest IPCC report? How to reflect climate and environmental concerns and the economic context in thinking on current and future models? Can ethics contribute to shaping EU policies on climate change and nature protection? How can ethics support sustainable resources management?

Moderator: *Mr Jean-Claude Thébault, Director General of BEPA/Mr Pierre Goudin, advisor BEPA*

Speakers

Introduction: *Prof. Dr. Hugues Goosse, Centre de Recherche sur la Terre et le
Climat de Georges Lemaître, Université Catholique de Louvain*

European Commission: *Mr Martin Scheele, Head of Unit Environment, DG AGRI*

Churches:

H.E. Mgr. Theotonijs Gomes CSC, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka (Bangladesh) and President of Caritas Bangladesh
Prof. Dr. Hans Diefenbacher, Protestant Institute for interdisciplinary Research, EKD and University of Heidelberg

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30 – 13:00 2ND SESSION: Climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance – a question of solidarity and global justice. EU responsibility.

The global dimension of the EU environment and climate policies is one of the sensitive factors playing a major role in the efforts to achieve a global agreement on climate policies. What are the implications of the EU approach to climate change for shaping the development policies including focus on sustainable, inclusive growth? How is the responsibility of the EU, as one of the major historic contributors to the emission of GHGs, reflected in commitments and priorities for climate finance that works for vulnerable victims of climate change?

Moderator: *Drs. Michael Kuhn, Senior Policy adviser, Secretariat of COMECE*

Speakers

European Commission: *Mr Paul Renier, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate C Sustainable Growth & Development, DG Development & Cooperation*

Churches: *Mrs Janna Schönfeld, APRODEV*
Mr Bernd Nilles, Secretary General, CIDSE

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 3RD SESSION: Towards a comprehensive global 2015 agreement – EU climate policy in the long term perspective, priorities and strategy. EU on the way to the Paris COP 21.

Earlier this year the European Commission organised a public consultation on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies. How will outcomes of the consultation shape the midterm aims of the EU climate policies? What are the challenges for the EU's internal coordination of climate policies of its Member States? What place for ethical perspectives?

What is the EU ambition for the upcoming European COPs in Warsaw and Paris? What role should the EU play in global efforts? What will be necessary to ensure equity in the global deal, with fairness towards poor countries with least responsibility for emissions?

Moderator: *Dr. Peter Pavlovic, Study Secretary, Church and Society Commission Conference of European Churches (CEC)*

Speakers

European Commission: *Mr Artur Runge-Metzger Director, Directorate A International & Climate Strategy, DG Climate Action*

Churches: *Fr. José Ignacio Garcia SJ, Director, Jesuit European Social Centre*
Rev. Henrik Grape, Church of Sweden

<p>16:00 – 16:15 Conclusions <i>Mr Pierre Goudin, advisor, BEPA</i> <i>Mr Martyn Goss, Church of England</i> <i>Mr Stephen Rooney, Policy Adviser JESC</i></p>
