

Climate agreement in Paris – Starting signal for global transformations?

Briefing before the start of the 21. UNFCCC-Climate Conference at the Federal Foreign Office, 12th of November 2015

For a long time, climate protection has been regarded by many as a factor that drives costs upwards and as an obstacle to economic growth and development. Meanwhile, something different has become apparent: a decoupling of economic growth from CO₂ emissions is feasible. The low-carbon economy is *the* competitive model for the future.

The 21st Conference on Climate Change (Conference of the Parties, COP) in Paris offers the opportunity to drive forward and shape this development and to master the necessary transformations in alliance with the community of states. The course towards a low-carbon future will be determined here.

In the next 15 years, the global economy will undergo a deep structural transformation. It will grow by more than half, a billion more people will come to live in cities, and rapid technological advance will continue to change businesses and lives. The Global Commission of the Economy and Climate" (New Climate Economy) underlines the opportunities that go along with these changes: How these changes are managed will shape future patterns of growth, productivity and living standards. And therefore, the next 15 years of investment will also determine the future of the world's climate system.

There are first signs that the global economy is envisaging a low-carbon future: The increase of CO₂ emissions has been losing its dynamic. For the past year 2014, the International Energy Agency even recorded a stagnation of emissions from the energy sector while the global economy grew steadily by three percent. At the same time, the prices for renewable energies are declining faster and more strongly than expected. In some regions they are already competitive. For the first time, countries like China are investing more in the development of renewable energies than in energy production via fossil fuels. The agreement of the G7 for decarbonisation is another strong signal and reassures many actors of the economy and civil society on their way towards more climate protection.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris can build the strategic framework for these transformations. How can it be led to become a success and who goes to Paris with what expectations? These questions will be discussed by experts from the official delegations of Germany and France. Speakers from the economy and science will examine the economic risks of the "business-as-usual"-path and show exemplary real possibilities and opportunities for a low-carbon development path.

The conference will be held in German with running translation in English.



Programme

08:00 H **Registration**

Moderator: ***Peter Fischer**, Representative for globalization, energy- and climate policy, Federal Foreign Office*
***Marie-Luise Beck**, Managing Director, Deutsches Klima-Konsortium e. V.*

09:00 H **Welcome: Climate protection – the economic interest**
Maria Böhmer, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office

09:10 H **Pre Paris: Presidency for the 21. UNFCCC Climate Conference**
Bérangère Quincy, French Ambassador for COP 21

09:20 H **The EU's and Germany's Expectations for COP 21**
Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

09:30 H *Questions and Discussion*

10:00 H „**Keep the oil in the soil...**“ animated video on decarbonisation with Dr. Sonja Peterson, Kiel Institute for the World Economy (in English)

10:05 H **Climate Change and Global Economy – how storms in Asia are becoming a problem in Europe**
Prof. Dr. Anders Levermann, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

10:20 H *Coffee Break*

11:15 H **Seizing the Global Opportunity: Partnerships for Better Growth and a Better Climate**
Jennifer Morgan, The New Climate Economy, World Resources Institute

11:30 H **Companies on the Road to Decarbonisation: Getting ready for a fossil free future**
Sabine Nallinger, Managing Director, Foundation 2°- German CEOs for climate protection

11:45 H **Investment - Divestment: Where the money flows to**
Dr. Christian Thimann, Group Head of Strategy, Sustainability & Public Affairs, AXA

12:00 H **Panel discussion: Can the Paris Agreement transform the real economy?**

Dr. Karsten Sach, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Prof. Dr. Anders Levermann, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Jennifer Morgan, The New Climate Economy

Sabine Nallinger, Foundation 2°

Dr. Christian Thimann, AXA Group

Moderation: ***Peter Fischer, Federal Foreign Office***

13:00 H Lunch Buffet

14:00 H End

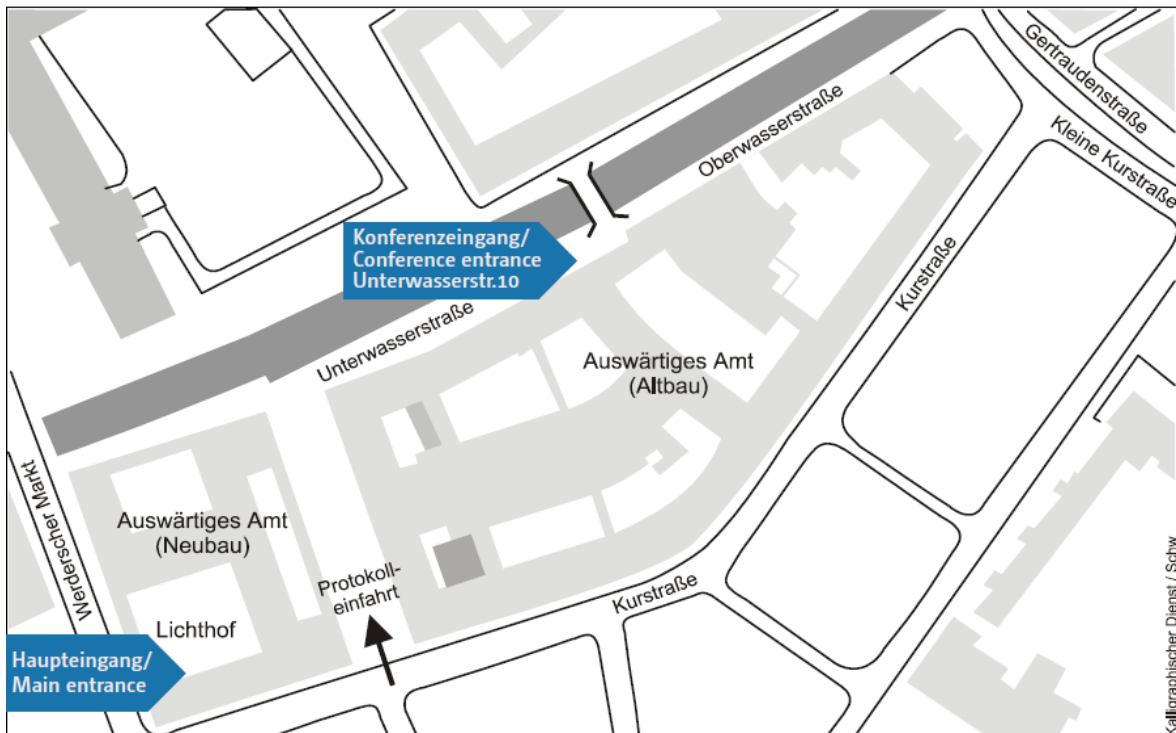
Registration

As the event takes place on the premises of the Auswärtiges Amt, for security reasons it is required for all participants to register with their real name and to identify themselves with their personal ID at the entrance.

Please register online:

<http://www.deutsches-klima-konsortium.de/de/veranstaltungen/event-registration.html>

Conference location



Auswärtiges Amt
Werderscher Markt 1
Conference entrance:
Unterwasserstr. 10
10117 Berlin

For further information or questions please contact:

Deutsches Klima-Konsortium e. V.
Tel: +49 30 7677 1869-0
Fax: +49 30 7677 1869-9
mailto: info@klima-konsortium.de