Climate Agreement in Paris – Signal for Global Transformation?

Pre-Briefing on COP 21 of the UNFCCC at the Federal Foreign Office, 12th of November 2015

Professor Maria Böhmer has been Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office since December 2013. Prior to this, she was Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration for eight years. She studied mathematics, physics, political science and education, completing a doctorate and post-doctoral thesis in education at the University of Mainz. She has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1990 and a member of the Federal Executive of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) since 1994. Professor Böhmer plays an active role in a large number of organisations, including the Central Committee of German Catholics and the Leibniz Association, where she is a senator. She was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2004.

Bérengère Quincy is goodwill Ambassador for the preparation of Paris Climate 2015 (COP 21). Her last assignment as Ambassador was as French Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Rome (FAO, WFP and IFAD), dealing with agriculture and food security. Before, she was the French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark 2007-2010. And prior to this served as appointed ambassador for Environment and coordinator for the French delegation to the WSSD in Johannesburg and as Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations Office in Vienna. Bérengère Quincy is graduated in economics and a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and the École Nationale d’Administration. Starting her career in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978, she has addressed issues ranging from European affairs, environment, security and development.
Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter has been Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety since December 2013. She has been a member of the Land Baden-Württemberg Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) since 2007. She was a Member of the German Bundestag from 2005 to 2009, and was re-elected in October 2010. Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter is active in a large number of organisations, such as ver.di, the National Society for Worker Welfare (AWO), KLAR – Kein Leben mit atomaren Risiken (an anti nuclear waste association) and EUROSOLAR The European Association for Renewable Energy. She studied economics in Freiburg and Zurich (Switzerland).

Professor Anders Levermann is Professor of Dynamics of the Climate System at the Physics Institute of Potsdam University and at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). In 2012 he became head of the research domain Sustainable Solutions of PIK and was lead author for the chapter "Sea level change" of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He studied physics at the University of Kiel, Germany, and at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel. He is author of the climate science blog KlimaLounge and active on twitter @ALevermann

Jennifer Morgan is the Global Director of the Climate Program at the World Resources Institute (WRI). In this capacity, she is WRI’s lead representative at international climate meetings, including the UNFCCC negotiations. Prior to joining WRI in 2009, she worked at Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G) as Global Climate Change Director and before this, she led the Global Climate Change Program of Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), growing its climate program with a focus on Asia Pacific. Jennifer Morgan has been cited in front-page articles in newspapers around the world on climate change and is regularly interviewed for radio and television programs. She serves on the Germany Council on Sustainable Development and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.
Sabine Nallinger is leading the Foundation 2° - German CEOs for climate protection in Berlin. The Foundation 2° is an initiative of CEOs, Managing directors and businesspeople of family enterprises aiming for supporting politics in establishing market-based framework conditions for climate protection. Sabine Nallinger studied Geography and worked for 20 years as an urban planner in environmental organisations, in the planning unit of the Munich administration, in engineering companies and in the Munich City Utility SWM. Since 2008 she has been representing the Greens in the Munich City Council, particularly driving the themes of energy, city planning and mobility and ran for the office of Mayor of Munich in 2014.

Dr Christian Thimann is a Member of the Executive Committee of AXA and Group Head of Strategy, Sustainability and Public Affairs. He is also an External Member of the French Council of Economic Advisors and an Affiliated Professor at the Paris School of Economics. Previously he held senior positions at the European Central Bank (ECB), including Director General and Advisor to the President from 2008 to 2013. He also served on the staff at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. Christian Thimann holds a Master’s degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a Ph.D. from Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München.

Dr Karsten Sach is Deputy-Director General for European and international Policy in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) since 2004. After passing his second state examination in law, he was awarded a doctorate in Berlin in 1993. From 1993 to 1997, Karsten Sach was Environment Attaché of the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union. From 1999 to 2004, he was Head of the Division for International Cooperation, Global Environmental Conventions and International Climate Protection, serving as Germany’s chief negotiator at several COP events.