



## International conference “Towards a New Climate”

**Date:** 11th December 2018

**Place:** “Szyb Wilson” Gallery, Katowice

**Organizer:** Green European Foundation

**Partner:** Fundacja Strefa Zieleni

### Topics:

**1. Just transition of mining regions**

(organized with the support of Heinrich Böll Foundation in Warsaw and Fundacja Strefa Zieleni, Poland)

**2. Potential green jobs as a result of climate-oriented transition**

(organized with the support of Green House Think Tank, UK)

**3. “Zero net emissions” - are carbon removals effective enough?**

(organized with the support of Green Economics Institute, UK and Fundacja Strefa Zieleni, Poland)

**4. Why nuclear energy is a false solution for a climate-oriented energy transition?**

(organized with the support of Fondation de l'Écologie Politique, France)

### Draft program

9:30 – 10:00 Opening of the conference

**Lucile Schmid**, Board Member Green European Foundation

**Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart**, Fundacja Strefa Zieleni

**Małgorzata Tracz**, Polish Green Party

10:00-10:30 General introduction

**Bas Eickhout**, Member of the European Parliament, The Greens/EFA in the EP

Video by GGEP on coal transition

10:30-12:00 **Just transition of mining regions**

Not only in Poland, but also in various parts of some European countries, coal and lignite mining are an important part of local identity, culture and economy. However, for economic and ecological reasons, in the coming decade(s) coal regions and communities must shift away from a coal-based economy. In this process, they need to deeply restructure their economy and find new future perspectives for their citizens. What are the economic and social challenges in the ecological modernization of these regions? Could the possible decarbonisation strategies be useful in different coal regions? How to include different actors in creating a common vision of the future while building concrete development strategies? How to address a changing job market and a need to build a competitive economy while empowering

people to pursue change? To what extent could renewable energy become an answer to these questions?

**Panellists:**

- **Annalena Baerbock**, Chairwoman of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Germany
- **Marcin Bazylak**, Mayor of Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland (tbc)
- **Andrzej Błachowicz**, Managing Director, Climate Strategies, London (tbc)
- **Monika Paca**, “Szyb Wilson” Gallery, Katowice, Poland
- **Milka Stępień**, Polish Green Party, Konin, Poland

**Moderation: Patryk Białas**, Director of Innovation and Competence Centre in EURO-CENTRUM Science and Technology Park, President of BoMiasto Association and local councillor in Katowice

12:00-13:30

**Potential green jobs as a result of green transition**

Meeting the challenge of climate change requires structural changes to the economy so that it is no longer dependent on fossil fuels. Different consumption and production patterns will lead to a loss of traditional jobs, but a large number of new jobs will also have to be created to accommodate the changed needs of our societies. This panel will discuss the research done by GEF throughout the past years that has led to a model to estimate the number of jobs that would be created in key sectors of the economy. During the event, the research report will be launched that summarises estimates for three EU member states – UK, Ireland and Hungary – and shows that increasing ambition on climate targets and transitioning the economy towards zero-carbon would result in a net increase in jobs all over the country, helping to rebalance the economy. The debate will take into account the implications the research will have on a policy level, including input from Prof. Jan Popczyk from the Silesian University of Technology, who will present results of his own metrics applied to Poland. It will also complement theory with real achievements in Germany and Spain.

**Panellists:**

- **Peter Sims**, Green House Think tank, UK
- **Anja Siegesmund**, Minister of Environment, Energy and Nature Protection of Thuringia, Germany
- **Florent Marcellesi**, MEP, The Greens/EFA in the EP
- **Prof. Jan Popczyk**, Silesian University of Technology, Poland

**Comment:**

- **Thomas Simpson**, Green Foundation, Ireland

**Moderation: Jonathan Essex**, Green House Think tank, UK

13:30-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:00

**“Zero net emissions” - are carbon removals effective enough?**

Technological solutions (like carbon capture and storage – CCS) and environmental solutions, in particular evolutions in land use, agriculture and climate-friendly forest management are important steps towards achieving carbon neutrality.

This debate will focus on political will, scientific evidence and results of experimenting with various solutions based on carbon sinks, as well as scientific validity of methods used for assessing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere. At the same time this panel will point to structural changes our societies will have to undergo to achieve the Paris Agreement's objective of limiting temperature rise to 2°C or even 1.5°C: phase out of fossil fuels, change the logic inherent to our agricultural and food system, etc.

**Panelists:**

- **Olivier De Schutter**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food (video)
- **Michal Wilczynski**, Poland's former National Chief Geologist, energy expert
- **Miriam Kennet**, Green Economics Institute, UK
- **Dr Claire Weill**, INRA, “4 for 1000” initiative, FR
- **Krzysztof Cibor**, Greenpeace Poland

**Moderation:** Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart, Fundacja Strefa Zieleni

16:00-17:30

**Why nuclear energy is a false solution for a climate-oriented energy transition?**

Poland is in the process of deciding whether to build its first nuclear power station. The public is divided, but the studies of locations, technologies, partners and investors nevertheless continue. During this panel it will be discussed whether nuclear energy is really the answer to the decarbonisation challenge and explore more sustainable solutions. This discussion is our contribution to the debate on nuclear energy happening in Poland today.

**Panelists:**

- **Yannick Jadot** or **Michele Rivasi**, MEP (The Greens/EFA in the EP)
- **Yves Marignac**, Director of Wise-Paris think tank
- **Marie Toussaint**, Notre Affaire à Tous association, EELV
- **Charline Dufournet**, négaWatt Association

**Moderation:** Benoit Monange, Fondation de l'Écologie Politique, France

17:30

Closing of the conference - final remarks by Natalie Bennett (Board Member Green European Foundation and Green Party of England and Wales) and



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

Evelyne Huytebroeck (European Green Party)

18:00

Buffet

19:00-21:00

Movie screening:

**“Human energy”** of Adam Dzienis (2018, 60 min.) + debate after the movie with Adam Dzienis , Weronika Bloch and Anna Krenz, moderated by Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart

*The conference is organised as a part of the international project "Towards COP 24" by the Green European Foundation with the support of Fundacja Strefa Zieleni, Heinrich Böll Foundation in Warsaw, Fondation de l'Ecologie Politique and Green Economics Institute. The panel “Potential green jobs as a result of green transition” is a part of the international project “Strengthening climate targets, creating local climate jobs” by the Green European Foundation with the support of Green House Think-tank, Green Foundation, Ireland and Ecopolis, Hungary. The projects and this event are realised with the financial support of the European Parliament to the Green European Foundation.*



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