

Annual Conference on European Politics

Sustainably recovering from the pandemic

The European Green Deal – Think Locally

Online Conference

Monday, 10 May 2021, 14.00 – 19.00 CEST

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on Europe's economy, health systems and democracy is enormous. In terms of European policy, it will now be important to shape the economic construction in Europe in a socially and ecologically sustainable way. The policy fields of climate, energy, environment, digitalisation as well as economy, labour and social affairs must be thought together in the European Green Deal and shaped in such a way that social cohesion in Europe is strengthened. Germany, as the most populous and economically strongest country, will have to play a central role in this tour de force. The EU's ability to act will continue to depend largely on the German government's will to act. The Annual Conference on European Policy 2021 of the Heinrich Böll Foundation will therefore focus on the question of which European policy priorities the new German government should and must set after the federal elections in autumn 2021.

At this year's annual conference on European policy, which will also take place online, European representatives from politics, science, political consultancy and civil society will analyse and discuss the current crisis and appropriate strategies to overcome it.

The focus is on the local dimension of the European Green Deal.

In many places, municipalities are seen as the new bearers of hope. Initiatives at the local level are already making a difference in many areas and are seen as potential drivers of the socio-ecological transformation, be it in the energy transition, sustainable mobility and infrastructure or in public space. We want to let some initiatives have their say and present good examples from practice that show the way forward and provide inspiration for imitation.

Read more at www.boell.de

Programme

14.00

Greeting and introduction

Dr. Ellen Ueberschär, President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Sustainable and innovative ways to overcome the crisis

Chair: **Jennifer Baker**, Journalist print, radio, television, EU policy, Brussel in Dialogue with:

Annika Hedberg, Head of 'Sustainable Prosperity for Europe Programme', European Policy Centre, Brussels

Claude Turmes, Minister for Energy and Spatial Planning Luxembourg, Luxembourg

- How must a solidarity-based and sustainable policy be designed to overcome the severe economic consequences in many European regions? What central impulses must the EU set now in order to shape its future in a sustainable way?

15:00

Panel 1: Debate

European Green Deal and socio-ecological Transformation

- How should the strategies put forward by the European Commission as part of the European Green Deal be assessed? What contradictions, conflicts and risks are discernible?
- How should we assess the Recovery Fund adopted in 2020, which provides part loans and part grants? What lessons can we learn from this?
- How can the member states live up to their responsibility in the implementation of the European Green Deal? What are the challenges, risks and opportunities on the ground?
- What expectations do our European neighbours have towards the new German government in terms of its European policy?

Rasmus Andresen, MEP, EFA/Greens, Brussels

Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, University of Economics and Business, Athens

Neil Makaroff, European Policy Officer, Réseau Action Climat, Paris

Bozena Ryszawska, Professor, Wroclaw University of Economics and Business, Wroclaw

Chair: **Eva van de Rakt**, Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels

16.30

Short break

16.45

Breakout sessions: Good practices

Local initiatives introduce themselves

- **Energy cooperations**

Vasileios Bellis, ANKA S.A, Development Agency of Karditsa, Karditsa

Vasileios Filippou, Energy Community, Karditsa, Karditsa

Edgar Wolf, Bégawatt and Avessac citizen wind farms, Brittany

Chair: **Kyriaki Metaxa**, Head of Program, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Thessaloniki

- **Resources/Zero Waste**

Ercolini Rossano, Centro di Ricerca Rifiuti Zero di Capannori, Capannori LU

Juliette Franquet, Zero Waste France, Paris

Drazen Simlesa, ZMAG Green Network of Activist Groups, Dubranec

Chair: Jules Hebert, Head of Program, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Paris

- **Financing models**

Alexandra Lafont, Energie Partagée, Paris, France

Raimon Gassiot Ballbè, Coop57 SCCL Servicios financieros éticos y solidarios, Barcelona

Panagiotis Tournavitis, Cooperative Bank of Karditsa, Karditsa

Chair: Elsa Egerer, Economist and Business Sinologist, Siegen

- **Transition Town/Urban Space**

Patryk Bialas, Bomiasto Association, Katowice

Helen Wright, Transition Bollington, Bollington

Alžběta Brůhová, Founder - the women professional community Architektky, Prague

Cléo Mieulet, Transformation House and Field, Germany's first transformation centre, Berlin

Chair: Martin Keim, Head of Program, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels

17:15

Panel 2:

Local does matter: How the local level can make a difference

- What is the role and responsibility of local authorities in the implementation of the European Green Deal? What challenges, risks and opportunities arise locally? How must framework conditions be designed so that the local level can act as a proactive driver of the European Green Deal? What happens when the local level is part of the problem?
- How can civil society initiatives enhance and promote the European Green Deal?

Dr. Franziska Brantner, German MP, Alliance90/The Greens, Berlin

Ares Kalandides, Professor of Place Management, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

Benedek Jávör, Representative of the City of Budapest, Brussels/Budapest

Sanna Vesikansa, Deputy Mayor, Helsinki

Chair: Dirk Holemans Co-president of the Green European Foundation (GEF), Brussels

Wrap up and Closing Remarks

18.45

Audrey Mathieu, EU Climate Policy Officer, Head of Berlin Office, Germanwatch, Berlin

Dr. Christine Pütz, Senior Program Officer, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

19.00

End of online conference

Information

Time:

Monday, 10 May 2020, 14.00 – 19.00 CEST as an online conference

Conference languages:

English/German with simultaneous translation

The breakout sessions will be in English and there will be no translation

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