

# READY FOR PARIS, PUSHED BY EUROPE'S REGIONS? THE EU'S CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convenes leaders for a Climate Summit in New York on 23 September, the international spotlight is being turned on the EU's capacity to forge solutions and make pledges in the UN arena, at a time when new Commissioners will not be in office yet. Just days before the European Council is debating the post-2020 climate framework in light of long investment cycles and the need to boost low-carbon-technologies, are there any chances to promote ambitious EU proposals for 2030? Can the EU gain back a pioneer role through own pledges when it comes to mitigation, adaptation and financing - or is there a risk for the Union to remain a latecomer due to internal tug wars? Does Europe rather need fresh impetus from its regions to reach real climate commitments in the EU, as time runs out until talks under UN auspices have to be finalized in Paris next year? With more and more municipalities and regions embarking successfully on climate action, are there chances for these actors to go beyond current achievements, particularly if an ambitious EU strategy does not see the light of day? As regional and local entities - directly affected by climate change - would be hit hard by a failure of the 2015 Paris summit, how can local and regional climate action be driven forward and coordinated more transnationally in the near future?

23 September 2014

18:00 – 20:30

PROGRAMME



RheinlandPfalz

MINISTERIUM FÜR  
WIRTSCHAFT, KLIMASCHUTZ,  
ENERGIE UND  
LANDESPLANUNG

## 18:00 Registration

## 18:30 Welcoming

### **Rainer Steffens**

*Director, Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU*

## **Short Input Speeches**

### **Eveline Lemke**

*Minister of Economic Affairs, Climate Protection, Energy and Regional Planning of Rhineland-Palatinate*

### **Jos Delbeke**

*Director-General, DG Climate Action, European Commission*

### **Rebecca Harms**

*MEP, European Parliament, Co-President of the Greens/EFA-Group*

## 19:00 Discussion

### **Facilitator: Bastian Hermisson**

*Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels Office*

### **Evelyne Huytebroeck**

*Chair, European Regional Executive Committee, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability*

### **Jos Delbeke**

*Director-General, DG Climate Action, European Commission*

### **Rebecca Harms**

*MEP, European Parliament, Co-President of the Greens/EFA-Group*

### **Dr Ulrich Matthes**

*Director, Rhineland-Palatinate Competence Centre for Climate Change Impacts*

### **Eveline Lemke**

*Minister of Economic Affairs, Climate Protection, Energy and Regional Planning of Rhineland-Palatinate*

### **Traugott Ulrich**

*Director Startup Projects, Company KSB AG, Frankenthal*



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