

The EU and India

CLIMATE ACTION - STATE OF PLAY

Wednesday 5TH May 2021
CEST 9:00-12:30
IST 12:30-16:00



ONLINE EVENT

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There is a new momentum towards more ambitious climate action by major economies that are part of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The recent US-organized climate summit shows that the goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°-2°C might be possible with further commitments on greenhouse gas mitigation and achieving climate neutrality within the next 3 decades.

Multilateral and bi-lateral cooperation will be essential to achieve this goal.

The European Union (EU) and India are important actors in the global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Both sides are staunch proponents of the Paris Climate Agreement and share an impressive track record on multilateral climate diplomacy. As strategic partners, climate action has long been a pillar of their bilateral relationship – a plethora of common working groups as well as policy dialogues have been set up, culminating in a Clean Energy and Climate Partnership launched in 2016. Cooperation spans from smart grids and cost-effective offshore wind energy to energy storage and advanced biofuels, amongst others.

In the run up to the COP26 this year there have been multiple 'net-zero by 2050' declarations by major global powers - US, Japan, South Korea, China & Brazil (latter two by 2060). The European Union's net-zero target too has very recently been cemented in a landmark climate law which also promises a 57% emissions cut for 2030. Here in Europe, there have been expectations for India to also make a similar proclamation. But such anticipations shows little appreciation of India's challenges and, more importantly, India's vast achievements: eg) renewable energy capacity, LED drive, afforestation, EVs and fuel standards, clean stoves, and so on (some even before Europe, like the plastics ban).

India's per capita carbon footprint is already 60 per cent lower than the global average and the Climate Action Tracker (CAT) rates India's current NDC target as "2°C compatible" indicating that India's climate commitment in 2030 is considered to be a "fair share of global effort based on its responsibility and capability". However, India should and will do a lot more.

To facilitate further bilateral climate action between the EU and India there is however a need for better appreciation of the strategic vision of India. The wide scope for enhancing cooperation between India and the EU will require greater understanding between both sides as opposed to helicoptering in with ready-made policy blueprints which appear ill-fitted for the Indian context. The global climate and energy transition will require both India and the EU to collaborate more than ever.

This event has the goal to facilitate mutual understanding in order to enhance future cooperation on climate action between the EU and India.

The EU and India: Climate Action - State of Play

5 May 2021, CEST 9:00-12:30, IST 12:30-16:00

09:00 Welcome and Introduction

Gauri Khandekar, Researcher - BSG-VUB (moderator)

09:05 Opening Remarks

Santosh Jha, Hon. Ambassador of India to the European Union

Ugo Astuto, Hon. Ambassador of the European Union to India

09:15 Key Achievements: national/regional, international & multilateral diplomacy

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO – Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Marc Vanheukelen, EU Ambassador at large for Climate Diplomacy

Dr. Amit Garg, Public Systems Group - Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

Dr. Gökçe Mete, Head of Secretariat, Leadership Group for Industry Transition, Stockholm Environment Insitutute

Dr. Navroz K Dubash, Professor - Centre for Policy Research

Suzana Carp, Political Strategy Director- Bellona Europa

10:15 *Questions*

10:45 Sectoral Views: Barriers and Enablers on the Road to Paris

Anna Gumbau, EU climate reporter - CarbonPulse

Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director - Observer Research Foundation Kolkata

Auke Hoekstra, Director - NEON Research; Researcher - Eindhoven University; Founder – Zenmo

Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha, Fellow - Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Dr. Sebastian Oberthür, Director – C3E Research Centre; Research Professor – BSG-VUB

Dr. Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow - Council on Energy, Environment and Water

11:45 *Questions*

12:15 Conclusions – What Next for EU-India Relations

12:30 End of meeting

Scope of meeting:

- *Exchange of views on important achievements in climate action in Europe and India respectively.*
- *Understand the barriers and enablers for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement for India and the EU.*
- *Explore the need, opportunities and state-of-play of cooperation between EU-India relations.*

Speakers



Santosh Jha, Hon. Ambassador of India to the European Union

Ambassador Santosh Jha assumed the position of Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union on 17 July 2020. Prior to coming to Brussels, he was Ambassador of India in Uzbekistan from July 2019 to July 2020. Earlier, from July 2017 to June 2019, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Washington DC with a personal rank of Ambassador. Ambassador Jha also has the pleasure of serving at the Indian Embassy in Brussels earlier from 2010 to 2013, when he was the Deputy Chief of Mission. During this time, he also had the distinction of serving as Charge d' Affaires from January to September 2012. Ambassador Jha holds a Master's Degree in History from the University of Delhi.



Ugo Astuto, Hon. Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan

He entered the Italian Diplomatic Service in 1991. His career in the Italian Foreign Service spans experience in the Embassies in Nairobi and London (including as alternate Director for Italy in the EBRD-European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), in the Permanent Representation in Brussels and in the Embassy in Delhi (2008-2012), where he served as Deputy Head of Mission. From February 2013 until July 2016 he was seconded to the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, first as Director for South and South East Asia and then as Deputy Managing Director/Director for Asia and the Pacific. From July 2016 to September 2019 he was the Principal Director for Asia in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.



Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO – Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh is a public policy professional, adviser, author, columnist, and institution builder. As the founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), he has led CEEW to the top ranks as one of Asia's leading policy research institutions and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks. He is the Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Clean Air and is a member of the international high-level panel of the Environment of Peace initiative. He was actively involved in conceptualising and designing the International Solar Alliance and is a founding board member of the Clean Energy Access Network. He is the co-author/editor of four books, and with experience in 45 countries, he previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York), and WTO (Geneva).



Marc Vanheukelen, EU Ambassador at Large for Climate Diplomacy

Marc Vanheukelen is 'Hors Classe' Adviser and Ambassador at Large for Climate Diplomacy at the EU's External Action Service. From 2015 till 2019 he was the EU Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Prior to his ambassadorial posting, Mr Vanheukelen was Director in DG TRADE (European Commission) responsible for sustainable development, economic partnership agreements, and agri-food and fisheries, preceded by his role as Head of Cabinet for former EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht. He has also served as Head of Cabinet to the former Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.



Dr. Amit Garg, Public Systems Group - Indian Institute of Management

Amit Garg has co-authored 12 books, 25 international research reports and published extensively in international journals. He is a Lead Author for five reports of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is currently the Co-Chair of IPCC Emission Factor Database and Co-Editor-in-Chief of Carbon Management journal. Prior to joining IIMA, Prof Garg worked as Senior Economist at UNEP Risoe Centre, Technical University of Denmark. He has worked on a large number of research and consulting assignments for international and Indian organizations including IEA, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, USAID, the European Union, UK government, German Government and Government of India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, University Grants Commission, and many state governments.



Dr. Gökçe Mete, Head of Secretariat, Leadership Group for Industry Transition, Stockholm Environment Institute

Gökçe is a Research Fellow at SEI Headquarters – Climate Energy and Society Unit and part of the Leadership Group for the Industry Transition initiative. Gökçe brings extensive practical experience working with law firms, academic and international organisations, including the UK Department for International Development (DfID), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI), Energy Charter Secretariat, World Bank, and other international development agencies. Gökçe holds a PhD from the Centre for Energy Petroleum, Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) at the University of Dundee. She also has an LL.M in Corporate and Commercial Law from Queen Mary University of London and a BA in International Law and Legal Studies from Yeditepe University.



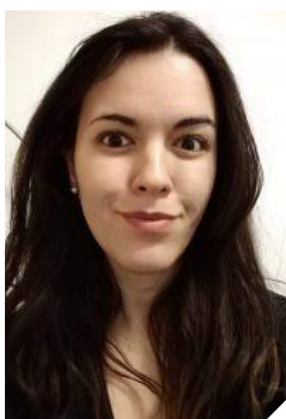
Dr. Navroz K Dubash, Professor - Centre for Policy Research

Navroz K Dubash is a Professor at the Centre for Policy Research, a New Delhi based think-tank. He has been actively engaged in global and national debates on climate change, air quality, energy and water as a researcher, policy advisor and activist for over 25 years. Navroz is a Coordinating Lead Author for the chapter on policies and institutions for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, serves on the UNEP GAP Report Steering Committee, and has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019. He has written two books, edited ten volumes, and published more than 70 journal articles and book chapters.



Suzana Carp, Political Strategy Director- Bellona Europa

Suzana is the Political Strategy Director in the Bellona Europa Office. She has worked on climate and energy policy in the EU for more than 5 years, having successfully led important climate campaigns towards the EU institutions. Encompassing her work outside the climate sphere, she has 10 years extensive NGO advocacy and campaigning experience. Suzana's field of expertise covers the EU carbon markets, industrial decarbonisation, carbon budgets for a net-zero world and Paris Agreement alignment mechanisms. Her studies took place between the US, the UK, Poland and France but she is originally from Romania and is passionate about bringing Central East Europe to the leadership role in the energy transition.



Anna Gumbau, EU climate reporter – CarbonPulse

Anna Gumbau is EU Climate and Energy Correspondent for Carbon Pulse, based in Brussels. Anna previously worked at Interfax Global Energy covering natural gas markets, with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe. In 2017, she was a research assistant in the fields of energy and climate for the ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics, based in Barcelona. She has also freelanced for several national and European media, including Deutsche Welle, TRT World, the EUobserver and Agenda Pública (El País). She holds a MA in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe (Natolin campus, Warsaw), where she focused on EU energy and neighbourhood policies.



Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director - Observer Research Foundation Kolkata

Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh is Director, ORF Kolkata. His previous positions include Senior Fellow and Head of Economics at ORF Kolkata, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist at MCX (I) Limited in Mumbai, Professor of Econometrics at the TERI School of Advanced Studies in New Delhi and Visiting Fellow at the Linnaeus University, Sweden, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), and Stanford University (USA) between 2008-2015. Dr. Ghosh obtained his PhD from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, and certification in Water Diplomacy from the Harvard University-MIT-Tufts University-housed programme on the subject. He has conducted a large number of consultancy/advisory assignments for organisations like IUCN, FORMAS-The Swedish Research Council, UNCTAD-India, Chinese Consulate in Kolkata, WWF-UK, IWMI-WLE, World Bank, and many others. Dr. Ghosh's publications include eight books and monographs (authored and/or edited), and 50+ peer-reviewed research papers.



Auke Hoekstra, Director - NEON Research; Researcher - Eindhoven University; Founder - Zenmo

Auke works as a researcher at Eindhoven University of Technology, a position that is funded by the Elaad Foundation or Grid Operator Alliander. His goal is to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy by producing reports that show why this makes sense and that provide insight into how this can best be facilitated. He is also affiliated with the National Charging Infrastructure Knowledge Center and often acts as an expert for electric transport towards the second chamber, ministries, provinces and municipalities.



Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha, Fellow - Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Uttam Kumar Sinha is a leading scholar and commentator on transboundary rivers, climate change and the Arctic. After a brief stint in the print media and a doctoral degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, he joined the MP-IDSA in 2001, where he heads the Non-Traditional Security Centre and is the Managing Editor of *Strategic Analysis* published by Routledge, the institute's flagship journal. He is a recipient of many fellowships and leadership programmes including senior fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2018-2020); US-South Asia Leader Engagement Programme at the Harvard Kennedy School (2015); Chevening 'Gurukul' leadership at the London School of Economics and Political Science (2008) and a visiting fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (2006). His recently published work is *Indus Basin Interrupted: A History of Territory and Politics from Alexander to Nehru* (Penguin, 2021).



**Dr. Sebastian Oberthür, Director - C3E Research Centre;
Research Professor - BSG-VUB**

Sebastian Oberthür is the Director of the Research Centre for Environment, Economy and Energy, and a Research Professor for Environment and Sustainable Development at the Brussels School of Governance. From 2005 to 2015, Sebastian Oberthür served as Academic Director. From 2006 to 2013, he was a member of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC. Since 2000, he has furthermore acted as a special policy advisor on international climate policy to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety. Since 1996, he has also been an appointed member and representative of the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL). He received a PhD from the Free University Berlin.



Dr. Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow - Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Vaibhav is an economist who leads The Council's work on Low-Carbon Pathways. Prior to joining the Council, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Joint Global Change Research Institute/ Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USA. He has been actively involved in global model comparison exercises like the Asian Modelling Exercise (AME) and the Energy Modelling Forum (EMF). Vaibhav has been a part of Government of India committees on energy and climate policy. He actively publishes in, and reviews articles for, leading international energy and climate policy journals. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and a Master's degree in Forest Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.



Gauri Khandekar, Researcher - BSG-VUB (Moderator)

Gauri Khandekar is Researcher in the Centre for Environment, Economy and Energy at the BSG. Prior to joining BSG, she was the Deputy Director and Director Europe at think tank Global Relations Forum; Coordinator for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's Energy and Urban Transformation Project; and Project Leader for the EU Delegation to India's Think Tanks Twinning Project. Between 2010 and 2015, Gauri was Head of Asia Programme at Brussels and Madrid based think tank FRIDE. In 2012, Gauri was Resident Handa Research Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Pacific Forum in Honolulu, USA. Gauri has also worked at the European Commission, the European Parliament, the G20, the UNHQ, a Brussels based American consultancy (Burson Marsteller) and a Brussels based communications enterprise (Tipik S.A.). Gauri holds two Masters degrees in European Studies with distinction from the Institute of Political Sciences in Lille (France), and the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). She is the author/editor of 7 books and numerous other publications.

Registration for the policy dialogue:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g1AB7abNS5eeGVTXE43oMQ

More information about this policy dialogue can be found at:

<https://brussels-school.be/event/eu-and-india-climate-action-state-play>

<https://www.facebook.com/BrusselsSchool>

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About

The researchers of the Centre for Environment, Economy and Energy (C3E) operate at the crossroads of today's turbulent transitions, which constitute key governance challenges and opportunities in Europe and worldwide. The sustainability imperative requires private and public decision-makers to steer our societies towards decarbonised, resource efficient economies as recognised in the European Green Deal, New Generation Europe, in the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If governed successfully, this presents the prospect of rejuvenating our socio-economic and political systems, making them fit for a sustainable future.

The Brussels School of Governance is an alliance between the Institute for European Studies (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Vesalius College.

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