

Call for contributions: Europe's role in sustainability and climate change

Dear colleagues,

With the framework of the COP25 taking place in Madrid these days, a number of researchers dedicated to the areas of environment, sustainability and climate change, would like to encourage paper proposals with the aim to organise one or more panels for the coming UACES conference in Belfast. Under the title '**Europe's role in sustainability and climate change**', proposals are invited from researchers and practitioners at any stage of their career, with innovative approaches in any relevant discipline or with interdisciplinary settings. Topics we would like to receive, using the framework provided by the Paris Agreement of 2015 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, include but are not limited to, European environmental conscience, connection between energy and environmental policies, or the EU as an international climate leader. Examples of questions we would like to address are:

- What do Member States and third countries expect from the EU in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change?
- How will the EU reconcile its international commitments with the national interests of Member States, especially in a climate of raising populism and Euroscepticism?
- How are citizens' demands being incorporated into the new climate policy agenda (2030/2050/Energy Union/new Commission Green Deal)?

Ideally, panels would be organised responding to the who, how and where of the main themes and topics:

- Who? - Who are the actors (businesses, politicians, citizens) pushing for policy change or any type of action with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation? What is the role of governments at the local, regional and national level? Is there a balance of power in the intergovernmental governance level? Are the changes coming from a top-down approach or are we moving towards a bottom-up approach, or a combination of the two?

- How? – What type of policies and regulations are being proposed? In which areas? Is there too much focus on energy? What about adaptation of the housing stock, transport and mobility frameworks, consumption and production (see the war on plastic) etc? Is it all about market instruments like the ETS, feed-in-tariffs, subsidies or are there other ways of steering society towards sustainability?

- Where?- Decisions might be made at UN or the EU level, but countries need to implement them nationally, regionally and locally. Sometimes actions at the local and regional level contradict those of the national level and viceversa. With regard to SDGs, is the EU focusing on international aid to third countries or on domestic projects? What are the consequences of one approach or the other? How is the EU's relationship with third countries going to be affected by internal policy decisions (for instance, attempts to reduce energy dependency)?

If you are interested, please send a title and abstract (200 words approx.) before the 14th of January 2020 to Dr. Rosa Fernandez (r.fernandez@chester.ac.uk) and Prof. Thomas Hoerber (Thomas.HOERBER@essca.fr). Selected proposals will be notified before the UACES deadline of the 26th of January, by which we also expect to confirm the possibility of attending a preparatory workshop at the University of Chester (UK) during the month of June.

Thanks in advance and kind regards

Rosa

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