



Thinking Strategically about the EU's External Action

Working group II

EU's external action for a sustainable and strategic management of natural resources

18 October 2012
CER - London
14 Great College Street

What are the external strategies of the EU for resources and sustainable development, focusing on the critical issues of natural resources, climate change, energy and agriculture?

Observing the rise of environmental challenges of the highest importance at world level - climate change and its impacts on food and water scarcities - and facing the existing challenges of losses of biodiversity, the energy and raw materials scarcities, the European Union intends to play a leading role to solve these challenges to human and economic development. The activism of the EU in this field is not to prove anymore (Roadmap for a low carbon economy, Rio+20; Biological diversity and biosafety, etc.), but coherent strategic options are still necessary among these declarations, as well as between internal and external policies. Its influence capacity on international negotiations in these fields is particularly questioned in the context of the appearing unstoppable economic crisis which European countries have to cope with, as well as the assertiveness of the BRICS and other emerging powers.

Comments from **H.E. Mr. Poul Skytte Christoffersen**, Denmark ambassador to Belgium, former Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Fischer Boel and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark, will introduce a collective discussion in each session.

2 pm - 2.15 pm **Introduction to the seminar** Stephen Tindale (CER)
Elvire Fabry (Notre Europe)

2.15 pm - 3.45 pm **First Session**
Chair Nadège Chambon (Notre Europe)

Energy, climate, carbon.

Speaker Stephen Tindale (CER)

Meeting Europe's resources challenge, in the EU and outside its borders.

Speaker Annika Ahtonen (EPC)

3.45 pm – 4 pm coffee break

4 pm – 6.30 pm **Second Session**
Chair Stephen Tindale (CER)

The role of gas in the external dimension of the EU energy transition

Speaker Clémentine d'Oultremont (Egmont)

Promoting low carbon energies in Mediterranean Partner Countries

Speaker Gonzalo Escribano (Elcano)

An external strategy for European agriculture to meet food security and environmental challenges

Speaker Nadège Chambon (Notre Europe)

6.30 pm – 6.45 pm *Wrap-up and discussion of follow-up*

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