

EERA High Level Policy Event

The Clean Energy Transition: From Vision to Reality

Date: 20 October 2021

Time: 9:00 – 12:30 CEST followed by a networking lunch

Format: Hybrid

Location: TownHall Europe (Brussels) and online

1. Event Concept

Decarbonising our economy and avoiding the worst effects of climate change requires us to zero greenhouse gases emissions at the latest by 2050. Energy is a key piece in addressing this challenge as it represents about 75% of anthropogenic emissions. However, it becomes increasingly evident that **the technical challenges associated with the transition, even if essential, are one factor in a wider societal challenge**. If we are serious about becoming a climate-neutral society, **a comprehensive strategy for a fair and sustainable Clean Energy Transition is needed**.

This goal will also not be reached without international collaboration and partnership across the globe. **Europe has historically been a leader in climate diplomacy and is the first economic bloc to put a concrete roadmap on the table**. The challenge is huge; in the words of EU Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni presenting the 'Fit-for-55' policy package, "*early movers have advantages, but they also face risks*".

The challenges connected to the Clean Energy Transition are societal in nature and, consequently, the potential solutions must be designed in a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary way. As recently alerted by the UN IPCC, **time is running out to find solutions** that will keep average temperatures from increasing too far beyond 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. And recent findings tell us that the consequences of overshooting this target are daunting given the several tipping points that might be reached and the disastrous cascade effects that might be triggered. Never was the emergency greater for **driving the Clean Energy Transition effectively and decisively at EU and global levels**.

EERA has aligned its mission to Europe's 2050 climate targets and has recently expanded its endeavours beyond delivering technology excellence only, by advancing research and supporting policymaking in all critical dimensions of the transition.

Recognising the extreme urgency of the situation and **the need to break the status quo** for designing faster and more impactful strategies, EERA has produced the **EERA White Paper**



on the **Clean Energy Transition**, which will be officially released at the occasion of this conference. This paper proposes a robust conceptual framework for approaching the transition from a holistic, systemic, cross-sectoral, and multi-disciplinary perspective. It **provides EERA's unique approach to these challenges, highlighting a set of key policy measures presented as preconditions to successfully and timely** driving the Clean Energy Transition, making it a reality for EU citizens.

2. Rationale

The conference will bring together a selection of high-level speakers representing a wide range of stakeholders key to the Clean Energy Transition. The conference intends to provide multiple angles on how to address this challenge, and an innovative perspective on how to design the best societal pathways to reach climate neutrality by 2050. For this purpose, the EERA White Paper will be briefly presented as an introduction to feed the discussion that will follow in the panels.

Recognising the societal nature of the Clean Energy Transition, the first panel will discuss how a **global CET narrative** could be designed as an **inspirational storyline** enabling convergence and engagement of EU citizens, and relevant stakeholders at large, to endorse and support the transition process.

The second panel will reflect on ways to boost research collaboration at the EU level on critical aspects of the transition. Based on a thorough analysis of existing research collaboration tools and processes, it will introduce the concept of **European Centres of Excellence (EUCoE)** and discuss how such instruments could be best designed and implemented for increased impact.

3. Target Audiences

The conference endeavours to reach a range of CET stakeholders, including:

- European Commission (DG RTD, DG ENER, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, DG GROW,...)
- MS/AC policymakers (SET Plan Steering Group and MS/AC representatives)
- SET Plan community (ETIPs, EITs, EUA, EMIRI, etc.)
- Researchers & other representatives from academia from EERA and beyond
- Industry
- International organisations (Mission Innovation, IEA, IRENA, ...)



- Climate/energy related NGOs

4. Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker
09:00 - 09:10	Introduction – EERA 2.0	Nils Røkke, <i>President, EERA</i>
09:10 - 09:50	Keynote Speeches	Speakers Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, <i>Former IPCC Vice-Chair (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), Prof. Climate & Env. Sc, UCL (University of Louvain-La-Neuve)</i> Philippe Close, <i>Mayor of the City of Brussels</i>
09:50 - 10:10	EERA White Paper on the Clean Energy Transition	Adel El Gammal <i>Secretary General, EERA</i>
10h10 – 11:10	Panel 1: How to build a CET narrative for the EU?	Panellists Philippe Lamberts, <i>Member of the European Parliament, Co-president Greens</i> Rosalinde Van der Vlies, <i>Director Clean Planet, DG RTD, EC</i> Stefaan Vergote, <i>Adviser, DG CLIMA, EC</i> Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, <i>Director of the Jacques Delors Energy Centre, Jacques Delors Institute</i> Monique Goyens, <i>Director General, BEUC</i> Nils Røkke, <i>President, EERA</i> Moderator Leen Govaerts, <i>Vice-President, EERA</i>
11:10 – 11:25 Break		



11:25 – 12:20	<p>Panel 2: How to implement the CET and boost EU collaboration? Introducing the concept of European Centres of Excellence (EUCoE)</p>	<p><u>Panellists</u></p> <p>Helene Chraye, <i>Head of Unit 'Clean Energy Transition', DG RTD, EC</i></p> <p>Vincent Berrutto, <i>Head of Unit 'Innovation, clean technologies and competitiveness', DG ENER, EC</i></p> <p>Peter Eecen, <i>Joint Programme Coordinator Wind, EERA</i></p> <p>Laurens de Vries, <i>Joint Programme Coordinator Energy Systems Integration, EERA</i></p> <p>Asgeir Tomasgaard, <i>Professor, Director FME NTRANS, Director NTNU Energy Transition Initiative, and member of JP E3S, EERA</i></p> <p>Adel El Gammal <i>Secretary General, EERA</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Teresa Ponce de Leão, <i>Vice-President, EERA</i></p>
12:20 – 12:30	Concluding Remarks	<p>Nils Røkke, <i>President, EERA</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00 Networking lunch		

