



EMEA WEBINAR

THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU GREEN DEAL: HOW DOES IT CONTRIBUTE TO A CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

Thursday 10 December 2020, 15:00- 17:00 CET

Panellists:

Grammenos Mastrojeni
Deputy Secretary General, Energy and Climate
Action, Union for the Mediterranean)

Prof. Pantelis Capros
Head of E3MLab of ICCS, Professor of Energy
Economics and Operation Research at the
Department of Electrical and Computer
Engineering of National Technical University of
Athens, Greece

Jorn Verbeeck
Head of Research and Innovation Global
Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
(GCOM), Belgium

Enrique de Villamore
Director of Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable
Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) of the
UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, Spain

Kyriakos Gialoglou
Director of European Government Affairs for
Seawind Ocean Technology, Brussels

Moderator:

Prof. Rym Ayadi
President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists
Association (EMEA) and Professor at the Business
School (Former CASS), City, University of London

Discussant:

Dr. Cynthia Echave
Project Coordinator-Senior Researcher,
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association, Spain



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In the Paris Agreement (2016), the EU committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels (40% emissions cuts by 2030 and 60% by 2040). Later on, in December 2019, the European Commission released its new roadmap for the EU's economy to become climate-neutral by 2050, better known as the European Green Deal.

The overall objective of the EU Green Deal is to drive integrated policies in all Members States, implementing actions with a cross-cutting approach. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most ambitious policies launched by the EU Commission, not only for achieving no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, but also for encouraging circularity in the economy and inclusiveness ensuring that no person and no place is left behind. Considering this, the clean energy transition becomes one of the key topics nationally and locally. Beyond the emissions mitigation, it is important to highlight that there is a clear positioning among the most vulnerable sectors, favouring fair access to renewable energies encouraging citizen-centred policies.

The so-called renewable energy and citizen communities become one of the current challenges regarding energy efficiency, energy diversification, off-grid systems, and the empowerment of communities. In the following years, energy transition will certainly drive a new economic scenario in all Member States. However, which are the potential externalities of EU Green Deal? In the developed countries, clean energy policies are focused to achieve access to clean energy and to diversity from traditional sources. It is estimated that around 40% of the population of the world does not have even access to clean fuels for cooking, bringing up morbidity rates due to indoor air pollution. African countries are mostly disadvantaged, experiencing an increasing rate of the population affected.





Most of the problems are related to the lack of energy infrastructure. For that reason, off-grid energy systems have become a potential alternative infrastructure to implement in African countries, especially in rural and remote areas. The question is, what should be the appropriate mechanisms and experiences to extend and adapt from the EU Green Deal framework into developing countries?

In June 2020, EMEA joined the Interreg MED Renewable Energy Project, which is focused on the promotion of the Ecosystemic Transition Unit (ETU) a governance model to support municipalities in rural and island areas to address their energy plans as an integrated strategy for their sustainable development. The ETU initiative proposes a framework based on five main principles: encourage an ecological approach, ensure territorial equity, attract social innovation, invest in the green economy, and multilevel commitment. EMEA encourages and supports the extension of the ETU initiative to be into the EU Southern Partners Countries and Africa.

The EMEA Webinar on The External Dimension of the EU Green Deal, focuses on energy transition. This webinar aims to explore how can the EU Green Deal become a global/regional reference for accelerating the energy transition, considering energy efficiency and social and territorial vulnerabilities amidst the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU-Africa partnership

Moderator:



Rym Ayadi

President and co-Founder
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Academic member and Chair (2018-20) of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA-BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

Discussant:



Cynthia Echave

Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher,
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Cynthia Echave is an architect & urban planner specialized in urban ecology. She possesses a Doctor degree in Energy and Environment by Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Its professional career is characterized by an active participation in strategic projects under an ecosystemic criterion. Her professional profile could be defined close to R&D, working on the development of creative and innovative tools, methodologies, and strategies for urban sustainability. Knowledge transfer comes through its application at integral projects in coordination with local authorities, mainly related to sustainable urban mobility, public space and urban liveability, green infrastructure, energy and urban metabolism.

She is Senior Researcher at EMEA in charge of capitalisation projects involving research around sustainability, energy transition and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean and Africa.

Speakers:



Grammenos Mastrojeni

Deputy Secretary General, Energy and Climate Action, Union for the Mediterranean

Diplomat, Professor and writer, has pioneered research and action on societal, geo-strategic and economic impacts of environmental degradation. Until August 2019, Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface with Italian Development Cooperation; MFA head negotiator on water, lands, and oceans, and member of the Delegations to UNFCCC, UNCBD. Co Chair of the G7 Group on Climate and Fragility, Chair of the Global Mountains Alliance – Mountain Partnership, Co-Chair of the Global Islands Partnership. Currently, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, in charge of Energy and Climate Action.

Professor of Environment and Geo-strategy at various think-tanks and universities, and member of various scientific boards, Grammenos authored numerous articles, official reports, and six books about human impacts of environmental degradation.



Prof. Pantelis Capros

Head of E3MLab of ICCS, Professor of Energy Economics and Operation Research at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Pantelis Capros is Professor of Energy Economics and Operational Research at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). He was the first President of the Energy Regulatory Authority of Greece (2000-2004) and a member of the BoD of PPC (Public Power Corporation, Greece) for five years (1995-2000). He is specialised in energy, transport and economic modelling, energy forecasting and planning, econometrics, integrated assessment modelling, software engineering and databases. He has built and used a variety of large-scale mathematical models maintained for several countries. He provides high-level consultancy services to the European Commission, EU governmental offices and several energy companies. He has over 30 years of professional experience in the areas of energy, transport, environment and economic policy and more than 150 publications in international scientific journals. Prof. Pantelis Capros holds an engineering degree from NTUA, three DEAs in Economics, Informatics and Operations Research from ENSAE – INSTN and the University of Dauphine, Paris, and a Doctorat d'Etat in Mathematical Economics from University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris.



Jorn Verbeeck

Head of Research and Innovation Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCOM), Belgium

Jorn has worked the first years of his career as a political advisor on local, federal and European level, with a focus on sustainable cities, urban planning, social affairs and stakeholder management. He moved to the Flemish Government in 2010, to help draft the council conclusions on sustainable consumption and production during the Belgian EU Presidency. He represented Belgium in the UNEP / International Resource Panel. Following that, he became programme manager of the multi-stakeholder Flanders' Materials / Circular Economy Programme, which translates the EU's long-term strategy into a regional vision, an R&I agenda, and a public-private action plan with the aim to achieve a systemic transformation. The programme received the WEF Circularity Award for best government initiative. In 2016 he moved to the City of Ghent as director of the Environment & Climate Agency with the aim to turn Ghent into a climate neutral city by 2050 and was active in the Eurocities-network that Ghent was chairing. In 2019 he joined the Belgian technology federation Agoria as expert environment and circular economy for the private sector. Mid-2020 he started at the Global Covenant of Mayors as Head of Research & Innovation, to help cities accelerate their climate action journeys by addressing critical data, innovation and technological gaps to enable cities to take accelerated and more ambitious climate action.



Enrique de Villamore

Director of Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) of the UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, Spain

Enrique de Villamore has been a member of SCP/RAC since 2002. He worked as project manager from that year to 2010 when he was appointed as the centre's Director. Enrique together with other members of the Center jointly led a process of transformation of the Center through which it was finally assigned with the official mandate of promoting sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean region, assigned by the countries members of the Convention of Barcelona for the protection of the Environment and the promotion of sustainable development of that region. In the performance of its mandate SCP/RAC has become a reference Center for international cooperation in the support to administrations, entrepreneurs and SMEs in the transition to green and circular economies. Enrique has a Law degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. After obtaining this grade, he has directed his career to sustainability-related issues. He has, among others, a Master in Environmental Law from the Basque Country University.



Kyriakos Gialoglou

Director of European Government Affairs for Seawind Ocean Technology, Brussels

Kyriakos Gialoglou has 20 years' working experience with focus on energy, environment and EU affairs having held posts both in the private and public sector. Currently he is Director of European Government Affairs for Seawind Ocean Technology, a floating wind turbine developer. Kyriakos is also Expert to the European Economic and Social Committee, in charge of drafting an Opinion on Sustainable Development in Western Balkans. Since 2018, he has been Special Adviser at the International Hellenic University (IHU) attached to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair on Conservation (oil, gas and water). Previously, Kyriakos was EU Affairs Director in charge of strategy and advocacy at Eurogas, the association representing the European natural gas wholesale, retail and distribution sectors. Kyriakos represented the gas and oil sectors at international climate change fora, for example at COP21 in Paris and COP23 in Bonn. Before Eurogas, Kyriakos worked in the European Commission. He was Team Leader for Energy and Consumers. In the Commission, Kyriakos was in charge of policy development (legislation and tools) empowering consumer participation in liberalised retail electricity and gas markets. Prior to joining the European Civil Service, Kyriakos was Adviser to the Board at the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (EREG) (now ACER). Kyriakos holds an MA in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick and is fluent in English, German, Spanish and French. His mother tongue is Greek.



SAVE THE DATE:
EMNES ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 17 - 18 December at 14:00 CET

