

## Reforming the EU: What Role for Climate and Energy Policies?

Workshop, 18 April 2018

House of Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria

124 Georgi S. Rakovski Str, 1000 Sofia

### Programme

#### 11:00 – 11:10 **Welcome and Introduction**

**Louisa Slavkova**, Director, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria) & **Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf**, Head, International and European Governance, Ecologic Institute (Germany) & **Oana Popescu**, Director, Global Focus Center (Romania)

#### 11:10 – 12:40 **Panel I: Bulgaria's vision for and role in climate and environment reforms in the EU**

In response to the financial crisis, Brexit, and continuing disagreement over migration policies, EU institutions and governments have engaged in a conversation about reforming the EU, necessary to better equip us in the changed environment at home in Europe and in our neighborhoods. Even though so far the process has been dominated by issues like security, migration or the Eurozone, the underlying question remains the same across policies and topics: How much integration do we want and what are we willing to do for it, both as nation states and collectively as a union?

Climate and energy issues cannot be dealt with in isolation. Just like with other areas, the question here is how much and what type of integration is going to equip us for the future? Some countries are actively shaping these conversations, while others are not, but every member state has a position, mirroring the specificities of the national and the regional context. In this panel we will discuss the Bulgarian vision for the EU reforms in general and when it comes to energy and climate specifically.

**Vessela Tcherneva**, Deputy Director, ECFR; Head, ECFR Sofia Office (Bulgaria)

**Atanaska Nikolova**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water (Bulgaria)

**Julian Popov**, Goodwill Ambassador on Energy and Climate Policies of Bulgaria (Bulgaria/UK)

**Moderator: Louisa Slavkova**, Director, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)

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12:40 – 13:40 *Lunch break*

13:40 – 15:00 **Panel II: Energy and climate in a reformed EU: local and regional implications**

Climate and energy policies are hardly thinkable in national borders. The changing European endeavors in these realms have an impact on the way we approach our neighbors, notably the EU accession candidates. European Commission President Juncker highlighted at numerous occasions the importance of credibility and deliverables that tangibly improve citizens' lives as one of the key ways to renew the willingness for reforms. Climate and energy policies are embedded in a global conversation, but have also a very local nature. They are both about ambitious global goals but also about local ones such as quality of air, energy security or energy poverty. In this panel we will discuss the effects of EU reforms on EU energy and climate policies and how this could impact us at home.

**Ivelina Vassileva**, Chairperson of the Environment and Water Committee at the Bulgarian National Assembly (Bulgaria)

**Georgi Stefanov**, Climate Change and Green Economy Programme Manager, WWF (Bulgaria)

**Victor Grigorescu**, Former Minister of Energy (2015 - 2017) (Romania)

**Zhecho Stankov**, Deputy Minister of Energy (Bulgaria)

**Moderator: Julian Popov**, Goodwill Ambassador on Energy and Climate Policies of Bulgaria (Bulgaria/UK)

15:00 **Wrap up and farewell**

**Louisa Slavkova**, Director, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria) & **Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf**, Head, International and European Governance, Ecologic Institute (Germany)

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Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundesrat

The event is financed by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI). EUKI is a project financing instrument by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Its implementation is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is the overarching goal of the EUKI to foster climate cooperation within the European Union in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. It does so through strengthening a cross-border dialogue and cooperation as well as exchange of knowledge and experience. The information and views set out in this event are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.