

Designing Flexibility, Governing Uncertainty: The EU ETS and Post-2030 Climate Policy Architecture Discussing Insights from the Ariadne Project

Date: 19-20 October 2026

Venue: nh Berlaymont Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

The annual Ariadne climate and energy policy conference returns to Brussels one more time, to continue the insightful discussions had in previous iterations. The event marks the end of the discussion series under the Ariadne project - but represents a hand-over to a continuation under a different flag in 2027. The agenda places a focus on the ETS review proposal (day 1), as well as the evolution of the post-2030 governance system for the climate targets, and the role of external credits in this context (day 2).

Day 1 – Monday, 19 October 2026		
Time	Topic	Organised by
14:00 – 14:30	Registration & coffee	
14:30 – 16:00	The ETS reform proposal - price impacts and recommendations (I) <i>Invite-only, in-person only</i>	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 18:00	The ETS reform proposal - price impacts and recommendations (II) <i>Invite-only, in-person only</i>	
18:00 – 19:00	Networking reception - open for all	

Day 2 – Tuesday, 20 October 2026		
Time	Topic	Organised by
09:00 – 09:15	Registration & coffee	
09:15 – 10:45	From Targets to Delivery: What Should Europe Measure? KPIs, accountability and learning in an era of simplification	Ecologic Institute
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:45	Contribution of international credits to the EU climate target 2040	Stiftung Umweltenergierecht
12:45 – 13:30	Light lunch	

Please refer to the descriptions for each session on the following pages for more detailed information.

Detailed information on the workshops

Day 1 – Monday, 19 October 2025

14:30-16:00 / 16:30-18:00 *Invite-only, in-person only*

The ETS reform proposal - price impacts and recommendations

The EU Commission has proposed a reform of the EU ETS that is currently debated and warrants further analysis and discussion. The two sessions on Monday afternoon explore the implications of this proposal. The first session looks at analysts' projections of the price impacts of the reform, with a focus on the development of the supply-demand balance until the early 2030s. In the second session a draft of the upcoming assessment of the reform by researchers of the Ariadne project is presented and discussed. The guiding question of the assessment is what the implications are for the next comprehensive review, and when this review will likely take place.

Organised by: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Speakers: Jos Delbeke (EUI/KU Leuven), Ottmar Edenhofer (PIK) and more.

Moderation: Michael Pahle (PIK)

18:00

Networking reception with light snacks and drinks

Join us for some drinks and light snacks at our networking reception in the Hotel Lobby.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 9 December 2025

9:15-10:45

Facilitating investments in the climate transition

From Targets to Delivery: What Should Europe Measure? KPIs, accountability and learning in an era of simplification

Europe is reconsidering how it plans, finances and tracks its energy and climate transition. As part of the forthcoming revision of the Governance Regulation, the European Commission is exploring a more streamlined system in which cross-sectoral and sector-specific KPIs could help monitor implementation, identify investment needs and determine progress towards long-term objectives.

This raises questions that go well beyond indicator selection. What should count as meaningful progress? Which indicators provide early warning of delivery gaps? How can Europe reduce reporting burdens while maintaining transparency, comparability and accountability? And how can evidence trigger learning, investment and corrective action rather than simply produce another dashboard?

Organised by: Ecologic Institute

Speakers: Michael Forte (E3G), Aneta Stefanczyk (Reform Institute/European Climate Neutrality Observatory (ECNO)), Representative of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (all confirmed) + Representative of DG CLIMA (invited)

Moderation: Matthias Duwe (Ecologic Institute)

11:15-12:45

Contribution of international credits to the EU climate target 2040

The European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119) allows for an adequate contribution of international credits to the EU climate target 2040. Up to five percent of the overall ninety percent GHG emissions reductions until 2040 could be delivered by projects in countries outside the EU. The Paris Agreement provides a skeleton for the transfer of those credits on international level; on European level, the European Commission must adopt respective rules based on the guidelines in Art. 4(5) of the European Climate Law. This session explores the overall, layered legal framework for the contribution of international credits to the EU climate target 2040. It is based on a study by the Stiftung Umweltenergierecht on the topic, and invites expert guests, as well as the interested audience, to discuss its findings as well as open questions.

Organised by: Stiftung Umweltenergierecht

Speakers: to be confirmed