Towards Low Carbon Societies:
Canada and the European Union are Getting Ready for the Paris Climate Conference

Maison du développement durable, 50, Sainte-Catherine West, Montréal
18 September 2015

Opening session

8:00 Welcome of participants (Fruits, pastries, coffee/tea)
8:30 Opening remarks

Maya Jegen
Professor of political science, Université du Québec à Montréal,
Member of the European Union Center of Excellence

Hugo Séguin
Lecturer, École de politique appliquée de l’Université de Sherbrooke,
Fellow at Cerium

8:40 Keynote: Towards an international agreement on climate in Paris

Nicolas Chapuis
Ambassador of France in Canada

Panel 1

Climate policies
How to create coherence and ambition within decentralized structures?

Decentralization characterizes climate governance in Canada and the European Union. Even if both have important prerogatives in terms of climate policy, the levers of action in terms of reducing carbon emissions such as country planning, transportation, industrial policy, natural resources and energy policy are mainly the jurisdiction of the member states and the provinces. How do the European Union and Canada prepare for the Paris Conference in this setting of multilevel governance? What are their commitments? Are there any consultation mechanisms between supranational and national, respectively between national and subnational levels? How can the European Union and Canada ensure the compliance with their commitments?

1 Hugo Séguin will act as master of ceremony.
Speakers

Dr. Oliver Geden
Head of research EU/Europe, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
(German Institute for International and Security Affairs), Berlin

Scott Vaughan
President and Chief executive officer, International Institute
for Sustainable Development

Commentator

John Drexhage
Senior advisor, Coop Carbone

9:00 Climate policies: some background

The commentator provides some context information on climate policies.

9:10 Historical context and intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) of the EU and Canada with regard to a Paris agreement

By turns, the two speakers reply to the following questions.
Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

What are the main climate initiatives of the European Union and Canada from a historical perspective?

What are the intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) of the EU and Canada with regard to the COP21 in Paris?

9:30 Process and mechanisms

By turns, the two speakers reply to the following questions.
Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

What are the processes and mechanisms helping to develop the INDC?

What are the drivers of these processes in the EU and in Canada? What are the obstacles?

9:55 Comments

The commentator identifies convergence and divergence in the trajectories and INDC of the EU and Canada (10 min.).

10:05 Break
10:20 Commitments and implementation

By turns, the two speakers reply to the following questions.

Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

How can the EU and Canada ensure compliance and implementation of their commitments?

Do the mechanisms in place within the EU and in Canada encourage implementation?

10:40 Comments

The commentator identifies convergence and divergence in the trajectories and INDC of the EU and Canada (10 min.).

10:50 Q & A

11:25 Conclusion

11:30 End of panel 1

Panel 2

Carbon markets 2.0

From fragmented markets to a global market?

Carbon markets are often promoted as economically and environmentally efficient and flexible instruments to reduce carbon emissions. The EU emissions trading system (EU ETS), launched in 2005, is the first and biggest international carbon market covering almost half of EU’s emissions. Critics point out that allowances are issued too freely, which leads to the collapse of the carbon price and removes the incentive of the instrument. In North America the Western Climate Initiative gives rise to the establishment of a carbon cap-and-trade system. California and Quebec are innovative in terms of including the transport sector in the carbon market. This session will address the following questions: what are the current challenges of these two carbon markets? Will they endure and contribute effectively to reduce carbon emissions? Can they coexist or should they be integrated in a single global market? Are they compatible with other instruments such as carbon taxes? how can free riding be prevented and other jurisdiction be encouraged to join carbon pricing initiatives?
Speakers

Jean-Yves Benoît
Director, Carbon market, Government of Québec

Andrei Marcu
Senior Advisor, Head of the CEPS Carbon Market Forum, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels

Commentator

Paul Lanoie
Commissioner, Canada’s Ecofiscal Commission
Professor, HEC Montréal

14:00 Carbon market 2.0: some background

The commentator provides some context information on carbon markets (15 min.).

14:15 Emergence and development of carbon markets in Europe and North America

By turns, the two speakers reply to the following questions.

Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

What are the main components of the emergence of the carbon market in Europe and North America?

What are the main problems and issues of carbon markets in Europe and North America?

Do these markets draw inspiration from one another?

14:35 Carbon markets – favoured tools of greenhouse gas emission reduction?

By turns, the two speakers reply to the following questions.

Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

Have carbon markets effectively reduced greenhouse gas emissions?

Are carbon markets in need of additional policies to ensure efficiency and acceptability?
15:00 Comments

The commentator compares Europe’s and North America’s experiences with carbon markets (5 min.).

15:10 Break

15:25 Expanding and connecting carbon markets

The commentator provides some context information (10 min.), followed by the two speakers reply to the following questions.

Interventions: 10 min/speaker.

Are the expansion and linkage of carbon markets feasible and desirable policy objectives? If yes, what are the conditions and what are the privileged partners?

Do we move toward an integrated carbon market or toward (disconnected) regional markets?

How to avoid free riding and carbon leakage? How to integrate jurisdiction without carbon markets and without carbon pricing?

16:00 Q & A

16:30 Concluding remarks

17:00 Closing of the conference