EUI Climate Week 2026

Transition in Times of Geopolitical Pressure

Core issues for the second half of the EU Commission 2024-2029

5-7 May 2026 | Palazzo Buontalenti, Florence

Programme

EUI Climate Week 2026 has its 5th edition. The aim is to bring together representatives of the European institutions, business, academia, civil society and think tanks for two days of open and candid discussions on fundamental issues on European climate policy for the coming 6-12 months.

On 5 and 6 May discussions are organized in open and closed sessions. The sessions open for all participants with virtual participation will deal with issues related to carbon pricing, such as the EU ETS/MSR Review and the rise of compliance markets worldwide, and on the other the transformation of the energy and industry sectors and the investments it requires. In parallel, closed door 'Chatham House' discussions will be organised among a limited number of registered participants in view of stimulating lively exchanges. Specific questions will be debated such as on the organisation of the Industrial Decarbonisation Bank, the use of international carbon credits, and how to strengten the EU's clean tech industry. On 7 May, the EU Commission organizes a conference on adaptation entitled 'Finance for Resilience' which is open to all participants.

Also on 7 May, the EU Commission will host the 10th session of the Florence Process and organize the first meeting of the Governing Board of of the Open Global Coalition of Compliance Carbon Markets, both for invited participants only.

Tuesday, 5 May

09:30-10:00 **Welcome Coffee**

10:00-11:00 **Opening of the EUI Climate Week**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

The EU is under pressure from all sides, not least from Russia, China, and the US, and faces unrest in the Middle East. That is being felt in the implementation of the climate and energy transition. The 2nd Von der Leyen Commission has put forward the Clean Industrial Deal, an agenda designed to combine progress on decarbonisation with strengthening the EU's international competitiveness, while also addressing the pressing security concerns. The main question of the week and of this opening session is how the EU should react in a medium term perspective and how it is likely to impact on the work program for the second half of the current Commission mandate.

Chair: Jos Delbeke, *European University Institute*

Opening words: Johanna Mair*, European University Institute*

Opening address: Ambroise Fayolle*, European Investment Bank*

Panelists:

- Paul Rushton, *NATO*
- Nathalie Tocci, *SAIS*

Conclusion: Ewa Krukowska, *Bloomberg*

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00 **Europe's Clean Industrial Transformation: Where We Are, What We Need**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

Since the launch of the Clean Industrial Deal in February 2025, the EU has entered a new phase of industrial policymaking. A wave of strategic initiatives — from sectoral dialogues and strategic action plans to more operational measures such as the Clean Industry State Aid Framework (CISAF) and the Industrial Accelerator Act — is reshaping the landscape for Europe's industrial transition. Yet turning this emerging architecture into real-world outcomes requires focus and prioritisation.

Questions:

- Is Europe's clean industrial transformation happening?
- How can public funding instruments be used to mobilise private investment at scale, including the upcoming Industrial Decarbonisation Bank?
- How to create lead markets to accelerate deployment and demand certainty?

Chair: Simone Tagliapietra, *European University Institute and Bruegel*

Panelists:

- Elisabetta Cornago, *Center for European Reform*
- William Todts, *Transport & Environment*
- André Körner, *ArcelorMittal*

Conclusion: Ben McWilliams, *Bruegel*

11:30-13:00 **How to Gradually Include EU Candidate Countries in the EU ETS?**
Elinor Ostrom Room | Session invitation-only

The Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine illustrate both the urgency of and the opportunity for accelerating the coal phase-out in the EU's immediate neighbourhood paired with the deployment of renewable energy sources.. This could build directly on existing initiatives, such as the Coal Regions in Transition for the Western Balkans and Ukraine initiative. Given the age and low efficiency of Western Balkan coal plants, a retirement within ten years could generate a reduction of more than 500 million tonnes of CO_2 by 2035. The power sector will be included in the EU ETS once EU membership becomes a reality. Such a transition could be facilitated through gradual inclusion in the EU ETS Modernisation Fund, or through the recognition of these emissions reductions in the form of international carbon credits the EU could accept as part of its 2040 target.

Questions:

- Would 'enlargement carbon credits' be a suitable instrument for the EU pilot phase on the use of international credits, starting in 2031? Or would an early opening of the Modernisation Fund be a preferred option?
- What are principal preconditions for this to work both in the EU and the enlargement countries?
- How can the Energy Community and the EU prepare for this?

Chair: Christian Egenhofer, *European University Institute and CEPS*

Lead discussants:

- Ivan Mrvaljevic, *Development and Engineering Director, EPCG*
- Artur Lorkowski, *European Energy Community Secretariat*
- Susanne Nies, *Helmholtz Zentrum, Berlin*

Conclusion: Christian Dietz, *European University Institute*

13:00-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:00 **10 Years After the Juncker plan: Can Blended Finance be the Game Changer for Climate Investments?**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall | *Session co-organised with the EIB*

The EU's transition to net zero requires a substantial increase in capital investment such as in the deployment of clean technologies, in energy, industry, transport and in buildings. The European Commission estimates that an additional annual investment of €500 bn is needed until 2030. Blended finance can leverage private investment in the transition to net zero through targeted use of public investment funds. The so-called Juncker plan, officially 'The Investment Plan for Europe', initiated the use of blended finance to mobilise private investment. Subsequent European investment plans, such as the NextGenerationEU and the Recovery and Resilience Fund, have continued this effort. However, the European Court of auditors found that the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) had overstated the investment mobilised and the multiplier effect, and that investments were concentrated in a few larger EU member states.

Questions:

- Has the use of blended finance helped the EIB in increasing its investments in net zero? Could its multiplier effect be strengthened?
- What are the lessons learned of some of the failed investments, e.g. in Northvolt?
- What could and/or should be expected from the EU's MFF to support the enhanced use of blended finance?

Chair: Jan Cornillie, *European University Institute and 3E*

Speakers:

- Alexandra-Maria Bocșe, *Romanian Investment and Development and Bank (RIDB)*
- Martin Ewald, *Scaled*
- Chris Clubb, *Convergence Finance*
- Christoph Kuhn, *EIB*

Conclusion: Jan Cornillie, *European University Institute and 3E*

14:30-16:00 **How to Define High-Quality Carbon Credits Eligible for the EU's 2040 target?**
Elinor Ostrom Room | *Session invitation-only*

The EU has agreed to partially meet its 2040 climate target with international carbon credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The agreed threshold of "up to 5% of 1990 Union net emissions" will represent a significant demand and is likely to shape the internationl carbon market. Carbon credits should be of "high quality" and the Commission is currently consulting Member States, academia, stakeholders, and practitioners about how to leverage the best available practices, knowledge, technologies, and regulations in preparation for the 2031-2035 pilot inception phase.

Questions:

- Are the existing quality and integrity principles and market infrastructure adequate to ensure high quality? Should the EU put in place additional guardrails for international credits counted towards its 2040 climate target?
- Should the EU focus on specific project types? If so, which ones, and when?

- How can decisions on the 2031-2035 pilot period influence the development of a robust international high-integrity system under Article 6?

Chair: Jacopo Bencini, *European University Institute*

Lead discussants:

- Pedro Barata, *EDF*
- Injy Johnstone, *Oxford Net Zero*
- Ingo Ramming, *BVVA*

Conclusions: Jacopo Bencini, *European University Institute*

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30-18:00 **Carbon Markets and Climate Targets: Aligning Domestic and International Approaches**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall | Co-organised with the Florence School of Regulation

Several jurisdictions like the European Union have decided to use international carbon credits as a complement to domestic mitigation efforts. Questions arise about their implications for cost-effectiveness, environmental integrity, climate justice and equity, and incentives for domestic emissions reductions. The policy dialogue is part of the EU-funded project LIFE NETS – Net-Zero Emissions Trading Schemes – which runs from 2026-2028.

Questions:

- What are the experiences to date in combining domestic target-setting with accepting international carbon creditS?
- Are regulatory safeguards and governance arrangements needed to ensure that the use of credits strengthens domestic climate action?

Chair: Simone Borghesi, *European University Institute*

Panelists:

- Toshi Arimura, *Waseda University*
- Dirk Forrister, *IETA*
- Injy Johnstone, *Oxford Net Zero*
- Sebastien Paquot, *EU Commission*

Conclusion: Marie Raude, *European University Institute*

16:30-18:00 **How to Design the Working and Funding of the Industrial Decarbonization Bank?**
Elinor Ostrom Room | Session invitation-only

The Clean Industrial Deal announced the creation of the Industrial Decarbonization Bank with an endowment of €100bn with a view to scale up low-carbon investment. The plan is to build further on the best experiences gained so far under the Innovation Fund. On top of that the EU needs to work closely together with the EU Member States who continue to receive the bulk of the ETS revenues.

Questions:

- Is the US IRA a good template for the future Industrial Decarbonization Fund as it succeeded in a fast uptake and deployment of low-carbon technology?
- Is the experience with Carbon Contracts for Difference (CCfD) convincing as a model for the Industrial Decarbonization Fund?

- Where will the Industrial Decarbonization Fund find its resources? Can free allowances under the EU ETS be used as a complement to revenues raised through auctioning?

Chair: Jan Cornillie, *European University Institute and 3E*

Lead discussants:

- Ben Görlach, *Agora*
- Stefaan Vergote, *EU Commission*
- Tomas Wyns, *VUB*

Conclusion: Julia Michalak, *European University Institute*

18:00-19:00 **Drinks**

Wednesday, 6 May

9:00-9:30 **Welcome Coffee**

9:30-11:00 **The 2026 Review of the EU ETS**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

The EU Commission is preparing to launch the review of the EU ETS and the related Market Stability Reserve (MSR) in Q3 2026. The future role of carbon pricing in the path to climate neutrality by 2050 is an issue of intense discussion. The fundamental question is how much the EU will rely on a market-based approach that combines flexibility with cost-effective emission reductions. Core challenges for the upcoming review relate to continued use of allowances for free either to ensureeffective protection against carbon leakage for industrial sectors at risk or as investment support for investments in clean technologies. In addition issues have been raised concerning the reduced liquidity of allowances on the road to climate neutrality and their impact on the development of the EU ETS price.

Questions:

- How to provide liquidity in an increasingly tight EU ETS market?
- What is the future of free allocation to protect industry from carbon leakage and should the ETS revenues more generously support the decarbonisation efforts of industry?
- What is the prospect of integrating new types of credit, such as from carbon removals activities, or from international origin, into the EU ETS?

Chair: Jos Delbeke, *European University Institute*

Setting the scene: Peter Liese, *MEP*

Panelists:

- Kavita Ahluwahlia, *Uniper*
- Robert Jeszke, *KOBiZE*
- Micheal Pahle, *PIK*
- Bea Yordi, *European Commission*

Conclusion: Jos Delbeke, *European University Institute*

9:30-11:00 **Given the New Global Reality, How Should the EU's Trade Policy be Shaped - Beyond CBAM?**

Elinor Ostrom Room | Session invitation-only

The EU's CBAM regime has formally started on 1 January 2026. Free allowances to the covered sectors are scheduled to go down significanty after2029, while industry is calling to review this modality. . Some nervousness continues to exist related to issues such as resource shuffling and circumvention. Moreover, the solution for enhancing EU's export position is only temporary. On top of that, President Trump brought back tariffs to reduce imports and to encourage domestic production. Also the EU is suffering from massive Chinese imports of EVs, batteries, or commodities such as steel or chemicals. Will the 'Made in Europe' concept be sufficient or has a more frequent use of trade defense measures become unavoidable?

Questions:

- Is CBAM offering sufficient protection to industries against the risk of carbon leakage? Should its coverage be extended or should future amendments rather focus on implementation issues related to free allowances, exports, resource shuffling or circumvention?
- As the era of liberalised trade seems to be definitely gone, is more intervention in the trade area necessary? If yes, which ones need to be developed? To what extent should the EU be constrained by its WTO obligations?
- Should trade defense measures be more frequently used as was successfully done for the steel sector?

Chair: Marc Vanheukelen, *Rud Pedersen*

Lead discussants:

- Aaron Cosbey, *IISD*
- Linda Kalchner, *Strategic Perspectives*
- Jake Werksmann, *European Commission, NY University*

Conclusion: Jos Delbeke, *European University Institute*

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00 **Electrifying EU: From Commission Plans to Real Progress**

Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall | Co-organised with the Florence School of Regulation

Electrification is one of the EU's most powerful levers for decarbonisation, enhancing energy security and boosting industrial competitiveness. By electrifying the economy based on zero-emission sources, the use of fossil fuels can belimited and theemissions can be significantly reduced. Currently electricity accounts for only 25% of the EU's final energy consumption. In 2024, more than 47% of electricity generation came from renewable energy sources. The share of renewables in the electricity mix is growing rapidly, although it continues to face numerous barriers, from insufficient grid development to limited system flexibility and high costs.

Questions:

- Which factors are hindering faster progress in the electrification of the European economy?
- What reforms are needed and how to insert them into the policy agenda?

- How to ensure affordable electricity prices, for businesses and households?

Chair: Joanna Pandera, *European University Institute and Forum Energii*

Speakers:

- Leonardo Meeus, *European University Institute*
- Marco Mensink, *Cefic*
- Monika r, *RAP*
- Jan Rosenow, *Oxford University*

Conclusion: Joanna Pandera, *European University Institute and Forum Energii*

11:30-13:00 **Managing supply in the EU ETS: Evaluating the Key Parameters of the Market Stability Reserve (MSR)**
Elinor Ostrom Room | Session invitation-only

The Market Stability Reserve (MSR) was established to address the oversupply of allowances in the EU ETS. It has successfully fulfilled this role by removing and cancelling excess allowances. However, as the EU ETS cap declines, the MSR is well positioned to play a different role in managing carbon market liquidity. By modifying its key operational parameters, the MSR's function could shift from absorbing the surplusof ETS allowances to increasing supply at times of price spikes.

Questions:

- Should the MSR be activated under a soft price cap, as it is for ETS2?
- How should the triggers for intake and release of allowances be designed?.What are the right values for price-based or volume-based triggers? What is the future of the invalidation provision?
- Should the MSR have a role in storing carbon removals or international credits, with a view of injecting them into the market under specific conditons ("central bank" function)?

Chair: Julia Michalak, *European University Institute*

Lead discussants:

- Marcus Ferdinand, *Veyt*
- Philipp Ruf, *Transition Metrics*
- Luca Taschini, *University of Edinburgh Business School*

Conclusion: Julia Michalak, *European University Institute*

13:00-13:30 **Reporting Back From the Closed Sessions**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

Rapporteurs:

- Jacopo Bencini, *European University Institute*
- Jan Cornillie, *European University Institute and 3E*
- Christian Dietz, *European University Institute*
- Julia Michalak, *European University Institute*
- Marc Vanheukelen, Rud Pedersen

13.30-14.30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:00 **Clean Industry, Tough Geopolitics: Europe's New Trade and Investment Strategy**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

Europe's clean industrial transformation cannot succeed in isolation. As global geoeconomic tensions intensify and clean-tech supply chains become increasingly strategic, the EU must pair its internal policy architecture with a credible external agenda. The Clean Industrial Deal includes for that reason the development of Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships (CTIPs) with external partners. Moreover, the growing importance of security dimension makes the question of diversification even more pertinent.

Questions:

- How can Europe strike the right balance between openness and strategic protection to anchor clean industry in a rapidly changing world?
- How can the EU secure access to critical inputs, open markets for European clean technologies, and build resilient value chains with trusted partners – possibly also in cooperation with the United Kingdom?
- How should the EU deal with Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) – namely from China – into its domestic clean supply chains?

Chair: Simone Tagliapietra, *European University Institute and Bruegel*

Speakers:

- Timur Gül, *International Energy Agency*
- Peter Hill, *London School of Economics*
- Julia Reinaud, *Breakthrough Energy*
- Sander Tordoir, *Centre for European Reform*

Conclusion: Pier Paolo Raimondi, *European University Institute*

16:00-16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30-18:00 **Enhancing International Cooperation on Carbon Pricing**
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall

The COP30 president, Brazil, has been investing significant effort to launch the Open Global Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets in Belem. So far, the EU and China along with more than 15 countries have joined the coalition, while others are considering membership. On the sidelines of the EUI Climate Week, the Board of the Coalition will hold its first meeting to discuss their long-term objectives and framework for further collaboration.

Questions:

- What should be the ultimate objective of the Coalition?
- The Coalition is deliberately named as 'open'. Are any entry conditions being considered for new members?
- The Coalition is explicitly focused on compliance markets while many of them have a limited opening towards the use of carbon credits. Is a coordinated policy approach on the issue of carbon credits under consideration?

Chair: Jos Delbeke, *European University Institute*

Thursday, 7 May

8:30-15:00 **Finance for Resilience Conference**

Martti Ahtisaari Peace Hall | Organised by the European Commission

Over the last decade or so, finance for mitigation has become more accessible. At the same time, finance for adaptation and resilience has been slow to materialise, also because it has long been seen as a predominantly public responsibility. Today, not only tightening fiscal space but also genuine public policy choices suggest a more precise allocation of risk ownership is required between private and public sector actors. Finance – both private and public – must play its role in enabling adequate levels of resilience. The conference brings together public and private actors to exchange perspectives and emerging solutions.

Questions:

- Which are the reasons for the insufficient investment in resilience against adverse weather events and other effects of climate change?
- Which innovative solutions are evolving in the financial sector – insurance and banking?
- Which are the key policy choices societies face in view of adaptation and resilience?

9:30-15:30 **Florence Process – 10th session**

Elinor Ostrom Room | Session organised by the European Commission | Invitation-only

16:30-18:30 **Open Global Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets: Governing Board Meeting**

Elinor Ostrom Room | Session organised by the European Commission | Invitation-only