



The Impact of Climate Change – Challenges for Latvia and the European Union

Only few topics are so persistent and broadly discussed as climate change. Negative impacts like a rising sea level, melting glaciers, increasing weather extremes and droughts require a global action plan. The consequences for each region are diverse influencing ecosystems and increasingly adding a political and economic note to the changes. While in the South climate change brings along an overall negative impact, it seems to bear in the Northern Hemisphere some positive side-effects at first sight: New accessibility of raw materials in the Arctic, ice free transportation routes, altered fish occurrences and changes in the agriculture are only few to mention. However, these short-term gains can not counterbalance the overall negative effects on regional and global level.

Nevertheless, the perception of the issue differs and many still doubt that climate change is taking place. Thus, the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia is interested in promoting the topic further.

The conference “The Impacts of Climate Change – Challenges for Latvia and the European Union” on December 6th, 2013 will be the first of three events focusing on climate change and necessary prevention and adaption policies to be taken in the upcoming years.

2013, December 05.- 06, Riga, Latvia

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Languages: English – Latvian, simultaneous interpretation

Program

Thursday, December 05

Individual arrival

19.00 Welcome Dinner

Dinner Speech by **N.N.**, Danish Parliament
Denmark – an Example for a Persistent Climate Policy

Friday, December 06

09.30 Registration

10.00 Welcome Remarks by **Norbert Beckman-Dierkes**, Konrad Adenauer Foundation Latvia, Lithuania & Nordic Countries

10:15 **The Global Consequences of Climate Change**
Prof. Hans von Storch, Institute for Coastal Research, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

11:15 Discussion

11.45 Coffee break

12:00 **Panel Discussion:**
Evidences, Impacts and Perspectives of Climate Change in Latvia

Prof. Dr. Māris Kļaviņš, Department of Environmental Science, University of Latvia
Evija Rūdzīte, Homo Ecos (tbc)
Lita Lizuma, Latvijas Vides, ģeoloģijas un meteoroloģijas centrs (tbc)

Moderation: **N.N.**

13:00 Lunch

14.00 **Climate Summit in Warsaw – Conclusion and Perspectives**
Assessment of the Agreement in Paris 2015

N.N., Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Artur Runge-Metzger, EU Chief Climate Negotiator (tbc)

- 14.30 Discussion
- 14.45 Coffee break
- 15:00 **Panel Discussion:**
The role of the EU as International Climate-player
EU Programmes Prevention / Adaption and its Relevance for the Baltic and Arctic Region
- Michael Gahler**, MEP, Rapporteur EU-Arctic Policy, European Parliament (tbc)
- Humberto Delgado Rosa**, Director, Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low-Carbon Technologies. DG Climate (tbc)
- Timo Makela**, Director E. Global and regional challenges. DG Environment (tbc)
- Ilze Prūse**, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
- Moderation: **N.N.**
- 16:00 Discussion and Conclusions