



„Low carbon economy – ideas for crisis”

Time: 31 January 2012 (Tuesday)

Place: Warsaw School of Economics, Auditorium I, building "C", al. Niepodległości 128 (corner of Madalińskiego)

Partners: Warsaw School of Economics, Institute for Structural Research, CEE Bankwatch

Conference Programme

09.30 - 10.00 Registration of participants

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome and opening remarks

10.10 - 10.30 Opening speech – **prof. Witold Orłowski**, Director of the Warsaw University of Technology Business School

Session I – Goals

10.30 - 12.45 **What should be a driving force for building competitive economy in the perspective of 2030?** Can Poland develop in the way that would guarantee its energy security and a strong position on the global market and in the same time successfully protect climate? What about improving comfort of life or solving unemployment problems? Can choices we make serve all those goals?

Moderated by – **Andrzej Kassenberg**, President of the Institute for Sustainable Development, expert of the Climate Coalition

Presentations

- **Aleksander Szpor**, Board of Strategic Advisors, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, expert at the Institute for Structural Research – presenting „Strategy – energy security and environment”
- **dr Maciej Bukowski**, President of the Institute for Structural Research, Faculty of Economy in the Warsaw School of Economics – presenting the report “Low-carbon dilemma – how to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses and how is that relevant for Polish economy?” PEC MB, WWF, ISR
- **Jan Nill**, Directorate General for Climate Action, European Commission – presenting Costs and benefits of moving towards a low carbon economy

Debate

- **Zbigniew Kamiński**, Vice-director in the Department of Economic Development, Ministry of Economy
- **dr hab. Grażyna Zofia Wojtkowska-Łodej**, Head of the European Union Unit, Institute of Foreign Trade and European Studies in the Warsaw School of Economics
- **Erik Brøgger Rasmussen**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Denmark
- **Kuba Gogolewski**, Energy campaigner, CEE Bankwatch Network

12.45 - 13.05 Coffee break

Session II – Finance

13.05 - 15.00 **From which sources and how can we finance the transition to the low-carbon economy in the time of crisis, and after it ends?** How will the goals of climate policy of the EU change the cohesion policy for years 2014-2020? What role can innovative financing sources play? How to mobilise private capital? How to find a compromise between use of public financing for climate action and the necessity to limit the expenses in the budget?

Moderated by – **dr hab. Zbigniew Karaczun**, Professor of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, President of the Board of the Polish Ecological Mazovian Branch, Expert of the Climate Coalition

Presentations

- **dr Piotr Żuber**, Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, The Ministry of Regional Development – How can Poland use the future EU budget to ensure the secure transition to low-carbon economy?
- **Grzegorz Peszko**, Senior Economist, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – financing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources with support of international finance institutions

Debate

- **Marcin Jamiołkowski**, Industrial Venture Department in the National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM)
- **prof. Leokadia Oręziak**, full professor of the Warsaw School of Economics, Faculty of International Finance
- **Henryk Kwapisz**, Public Affairs Manager, Saint-Gobain Group Eastern Europe General Delegation
- **Adam de Sola Pool**, Environmental Investment Partners III

Summary

15.00 – 15.30 – Threats and chances of the transition to low-carbon economy – **dr Maciej Cygler**, Institute of the International Economic Relations in the Warsaw School of Economics, and **Andrzej Kassenberg**, President of the Institute for Sustainable Development, expert of the Climate Coalition

15.30 – 16.30 Lunch

Goal of the conference is to link a public debate on financial crisis with the discussion concerning low carbon economy – presenting possibilities of combining the battle with the crisis and action for climate, connections between reduction of emissions and improving efficiency, innovativeness and competitiveness of the economy.

Economical crisis, globalization and Climate change are redefining the world. Old economical powers lose their influence and a role of the new ones – like China, Brazil, and India- grows. Demographic growth and gradual improvement of the life quality of 7 billion people results in exhaustion of natural resources, including non-renewable energy resources. Too long have Europe and America lived “on credit”, and now is the time when we start paying bills. Climate change effects are getting stronger, almost every year is warmer from the previous one, and more unstable – with more, and more loss and damage, mostly in the poorest countries, which are the least responsible.

At the same time, world is entering a new path of innovative, green economy, based on effective use of renewable, local resources. The value of the green technology market grows every year over a dozen percent, already surpassed 3 billion dollars. Yet, the European Union – while trying to be a leader of climate action – is not a leader of those changes. Only Germany makes it to the group of first 5 countries with an highest number of patents in the new “clean technologies” sector.

The same problem can also be identified in Poland. Instead of building innovative economy we spend tremendous amounts of energy to defend the old, centralized, coal-based energy system. Poland is the last country in the eco-innovation index of European Union – with indicator value two times lower than EU average, and three times lower than its leader, Finland. Is economic crisis a good time to withdraw from innovation, or the opposite – the best moment to introduce them? If we want to have a competitive, modern economy in next 20-40 years, we have to call “all on board” right now, and decide what is the exact direction of our journey.

And to do that we need tools, such as the analysis prepared for the Polish Ecological Mazovian Branch and the WWF Poland by the Institute for Structural Research – “Low-carbon dilemma – how to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses and how is that relevant for Polish economy?”. Conclusions of this report will serve as a base to evaluate the costs and benefits connected to the realization of ambitious reduction goals. Important part of the conference will also be a search for an answer to the important questions – what financial tools are necessary for the benefits to exceed costs in a longer perspective.

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