

Invitation

9th Energy Economics Policy Seminar

on

Climate change and international environmental agreements

26 September 2011, 13.30 – 18.00
The Hague, Muzentoren (NMa)

On Wednesday 26 September 2012, the 9th seminar on Energy Economics Policy Issues will take place. This seminar series is organized by CPB, NMa and TILEC/Tilburg University, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (E&LI) and the Benelux Association for Energy Economics (BAEE).

The aim of the seminars is to create a discussion platform for Dutch energy economists, and to bridge the gap between policy makers and academics. It intends to improve the economic foundation of the Dutch and European energy policy, and ensure that economic research is better aligned with the specific needs of the energy debate. The topic for the ninth seminar is "***Climate change and international environmental agreements***".

The European Commission (1996) and the Copenhagen Accord (2009) have adopted the goal to limit the global atmospheric temperature increase to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This will hopefully prevent the world from reaching perilous levels of climate change. To reach this goal, global CO₂ emissions need to be reduced drastically by the middle of this century. However, because abating CO₂ emissions is costly, while its benefits are disperse and far in the future, standard economic theory predicts that individual countries will not find it in their interest to cut emissions to the socially efficient level.

If we want to avoid such an outcome, international environmental agreements, such as the Kyoto protocol (1997), in which individual countries commit to cut emissions are necessary. However, the Kyoto protocol is generally not seen as a success on all fronts. It is often claimed that it did not achieve significant emission reductions, lacked good enforcement mechanisms, missed a clear long-term goal, focused too little on innovation and did not sufficiently involve developing countries.

In this seminar we will discuss the challenges for reaching an effective and equitable climate change agreement and look at the following questions:

- The Montreal Protocol (1987) largely eliminated the use of ozone-depleting chemicals, while the effects of the Kyoto Protocol are rather limited. What makes climate change different from other global problems?
- The EU 20/20/2020 package is very ambitious. Some studies even argue that the social benefits of the package will not outweigh its costs unless (unrealistically) low social discount rates are assumed.¹ Should we worry about free-riding in practice or is it only a theoretical concept?
- Should future international environmental treaties rely on a different set of instruments than the one proposed in Kyoto? How do we get developing countries on board? Should we adjust international trade agreements to prevent carbon leakage?
- What is the relationship between adaptation strategies (such as geo-engineering) and the success of international agreements on mitigation strategies?

We are very happy to welcome two renowned keynote speakers, who will shed some light on those questions. The first keynote speaker is [Scott Barrett](#) of Columbia University, who has written two books and numerous articles on international environmental agreements. The second keynote speaker is [Cathrine Hagem](#) who leads a team of researchers at Statistics Norway studying the design of international environmental agreements.

After both lectures, two experts will kick off the debate. The first discussant is [Ton Manders](#), deputy head climate, air and energy of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). [Erwin Mulders](#), the deputy unit manager international climate change at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment is the second discussant.

We cordially invite you to participate in the workshop. If you would like to attend the workshop, please, register on the website **before 15 September 2012**: <http://www.baee.eu/9th-energy-economics-policy-seminar.html>.

Please, do not hesitate to forward this invitation to your colleagues.

Best regards,

The Organizing Committee

Machiel Mulder (NMa / University of Groningen / BAEE)

Bert Willems (Tilburg University / BAEE)

Gijsbert Zwart (CPB / Tilburg University)

¹ See [Böhringer and Keller \(2011\)](#) and [Tol \(2011\)](#).



Program

Chair: [Sjak Smulders](#) (Tilburg University)

13.30 – 14.00 Registration and coffee

Session 1:

14.00 Opening

14.10 – 14.55 Presentation: [Scott Barrett](#) (Columbia University)

14.55 – 15.15 Discussant: [Ton Manders](#) (Netherlands Environmental Agency)

15-15 – 15.30 Open Discussions

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

Session 2:

16.00 – 16.45 Presentation: [Cathrine Hagem](#) (Statistics Norway).

16.45 – 17.05 Discussant: [Erwin Mulders](#) (Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment)

17.05 – 17.30 Open Discussions

17.30 – Drinks

Remark

To enable free discussions, the *Chatham-House* rule applies to this Seminar:

“When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”



Registration

Attendance to the conference is free, but registration is required.

Please register before **September 15** on the following website

<http://www.baee.eu/9th-energy-economics-policy-seminar.html>

Venue

Nederlandse Mededingingsautoriteit - NMa

Muzentoren - Room 4.20, Wijnhaven 24, Den Haag

[Directions on www.nmanet.nl](http://www.nmanet.nl)



Organization

This Workshop is organized by the CPB – Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis; the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation; NMa – Netherlands Competition Authority, and TILEC Law and Economics Center–Tilburg University, in cooperation with the Benelux Association for Energy Economics (www.baee.eu).

For further information about the content of the meeting, contact Bert Willems, TILEC, Tilburg University, P.O. Box 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg, Netherlands, or email tilec@tilburguniversity.edu