



Climate Change and The Paris Agreement: What it means for business

Overview

In 2020, the Paris Agreement will take effect and 194 countries will begin the serious work of managing and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions while adapting their economies to deal with climate change.

With the agreement signed and majority ratified, businesses the world over are questioning the impacts of this historic deal on carbon taxes and local legislation.

This session will bring in a diverse group of panellists to explore the effects on the agreement from multiple perspectives, including legislative, the private sector, SMEs, and NGOs working to halt climate change.

Attendees will also learn the role their business can play in tackling climate change and how BEPI can support this important work.

Speakers

Moderator: **Anouschka Jansen**, Senior Manager – Environmental Programmes - FTA

- **Yan Yan**, Vice President - China Textile Information Center; Director of Office for Social Responsibility - CNTAC
- **Franzjosef Schafhausen**, Former Head of the Directorate-General: Climate Policy, European and International Policy - BMUB
- **René Estermann**, CEO - Myclimate

Session Highlights

- **Franzjosef Schafhausen** gave an overview of the Paris Agreement and the German plan to meet the target of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Franzjosef Schafhausen** highlighted the need for a global effort in transitioning to a fossil-fuels free world, as well as the necessity to implement well thought climate change policies and sustainable production patterns.

- **René Estermann** presented Myclimate and the new partnership with BEPI, as well as successful business cases of carbon footprint reduction, often based on internal carbon pricing and investment.
- **Yan Yan** presented the point of view of the Chinese textile sector on the Paris agreement and on SDGs.
- Pressure from the civil society and regulatory limits pose great challenges to the textile sector in China, however the China Textile Information Center and CNTAC are developing tools and action plans to meet the climate change and sustainable development goals.
- **All speakers** highlighted the need of combining the use of renewable sources with increased energy efficiency as the key to reducing emissions.

Quotes

- **Franzjosef Schafhausen**
 - The problem of the Kyoto protocol was that it divided the world in 2: the developing and the developed. The Paris Agreement creates 1 single world where everyone is committed.
 - No reduction of PCM will be reached without improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable sources.
 - Courageous climate change policies will be able to bring job creation and economic growth.
- **René Estermann**
 - It is important to understand how to act, and not just to react in your daily business strategy.
 - Measuring your business footprint is the key to start managing your emissions.
 - Calculate your footprint, set a price for it, offset it, reduce it.
 - Without putting a value on your carbon emissions, there won't be investment; without measurement, there won't be management.
 - Bringing your carbon footprint to zero is a continuous improvement process.
- **Yan Yan**
 - China will stick to the Paris agreement, which is highly beneficial for us. We need to consider that sustainability means energy safety.
 - To promote social responsibility and sustainability we need dialogue with stakeholders and to put theories into action.
 - Transparency and stakeholder engagement are the 1st driving forces of green manufacturing.
 - Chemical management is key for green manufacturing and one of the main risks in the textile sector:
 - 25% of chemicals are used in textile
 - 45% of chemicals are used in China