



**Interparliamentary conferences
Dutch EU Presidency 2016**

To Mr. Buck
matthias.buck@agora-energiewende.de

Place and date: The Hague, November 18, 2015
Concerning: Invitation to participate in a panel session at the Interparliamentary Conference on Energy, Innovation and Circular Economy on Monday April 4, 2016, The Hague, The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Buck

Recently you have been in touch with mr. Benjamin Koerselman, one of our staff members, concerning the upcoming Interparliamentary Conference on Energy in the Netherlands. I hereby send you the official invitation to this conference.

From the 1st of January, 2016, the Netherlands will hold the biannual rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As part of the parliamentary dimension of the EU Presidency, the Dutch Parliament will organise an Interparliamentary Conference (IPC) on Energy and Innovation with a special focus on Circular Economy in The Hague from Sunday 3 until Monday 4 April 2016. The conference will be attended by approximately 100 key legislators: national parliamentarians dealing with energy and climate change from the 28 national parliaments in the EU as well as members of the European Parliament. The key question the conference will address is: *How to speed up the cost-effective transition towards a clean, competitive and secure Energy Future?*

The Monday morning programme opens with contributions from Vice-President Sefčovič (Energy Union) of the European Commission and Commissioner Vella (Environment) from the European Commission, followed by a speech by the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Kamp. After the opening statements there will be a plenary panel discussion with four renowned experts. This panel discussion will take place from 11.00h – 12.30h.

The afternoon programme consists of parallel sessions on four different topics: Energy infrastructure and security of supply; Energy conservation – Energy-saving cities; Sustainable energy sources and Circular economy.

As chair of the political preparatory group that organizes this conference, I would like to kindly invite you to participate in the panel discussion on Sustainable energy sources. Each session will have three panel members who will hold a 'Ted Talk-style' introduction. After these short presentations, there will be a discussion between the participants and the panel members. For the panel on Sustainable energy sources, the two other speakers that we have invited will be Mr. Mario Ragwitz of [Fraunhofer](#) and Mr. Rik Siebers from the Dutch company [Redstack](#).

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I would therefore be most grateful if you would be willing and available to be on the panel in The Hague. Travel expenses will be covered by the Dutch Parliament.

We very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the preparation of this panel discussion. For further information please refer to the clerk of the conference parleu2016@staten-generaal.nl, tel. +31-70-3182388

I am looking forward to receiving your response.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Michiel VAN VEEN
Chair of the Political preparatory group Interparliamentary Conference on Energy, Innovation and Circular Economy
States General of the Netherlands

Parallel session "Sustainable energy sources"

Subject

The central question during the parallel session on sustainable energy sources will be how to promote the use of sustainable energy sources, such as wind, sun, water and heat sources, at European, national and regional level. How can the institutional structural framework be created to enable market players and others to work on the organisation of low-carbon energy supplies at an early stage?

What approach should the world of politics adopt when it comes to subsidies? According to experts, not only brand-new, but also fully-developed low-carbon technologies, such as solar and wind energy, still need intervention in order to enable the market potential of these technologies to be exploited to the full. How can this be achieved in a way that is both smart and cost-effective? In addition to subsidies, there is also the issue of how investments can be made available to fund sustainable energy projects and how the right market conditions can be created to achieve this.

Another important factor in this is the issue of how innovation policy should be shaped. This will not only need to involve research & development, but more importantly a vision on the issue of how new technologies can be prepared for the market and how the right market incentives can be put in place. Examples of technologies include geothermal heat and what is known as blue energy (energy generated in areas where a freshwater river flows into the sea). Other issues that also play a role include: how can decentralised energy generation be promoted, what can be achieved from the bottom-up, where potential opportunities still remain and what constitutes best practice when it comes to sustainable energy supplies. What issues are businesses, citizens and governments facing, what legislation is preventing progress?

Finally, another important issue involves the targets that politics should set with regard to energy transition. Experience has shown that countries that set concrete targets ultimately create better structural frameworks for this transition.

For this parallel session, leading experts are sought from the business community, science and academia and international organisations, who have understanding and insights both in the field and in terms of politics in order to speak with authority on the above issues, as a way of formulating lessons for the world of politics.

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