

2—3

October

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# RENDEZ-VOUS FACING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE COP21 PARIS

1

2

3

4

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# Ensemble face au défi du changement climatique Facing the challenge of climate change Zajedničkim naporima u rješavanju izazova klimatskih promjena

## Introduction

In December 2015, France will host the United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP21 ([www.cop21.gouv.fr/en](http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en)). This event will be the crucial moment in preparing a universal agreement setting the framework for a transition towards resilient, low-carbon economies and societies.

Croatia will also organize a major event on climate issues. It will host the most prestigious climatologists between the 5 and 8 October, on the occasion of the 42nd Plenary Session of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

Given the importance of COP 21, numerous mobilization initiatives have already been launched in Croatia as well as in many other countries.

With the support of the French Embassy in Croatia and the Croatian Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, the Forum that will bring together scientists, policy makers, and representatives of civil society, will be held in Zagreb on 2 and 3 October as an introduction to the IPCC Plenary Session in Dubrovnik.

The main aim of this Forum is to promote awareness and debate in Central and South Eastern Europe on climate change in all its aspects – observation, effects, mitigation and adaptation. Indeed, the tragic floods in Croatia and its surroundings in spring and summer 2014 highlighted that no country is protected from the impacts of climate change. In addition, an 'agenda of solutions' should be considered: climate change brings opportunities to create jobs, 'green growth' and to invent new forms of production and consumption.

Croatia, along with its neighbouring countries, could play a key role in the field of energy transition in Europe. On the one hand South Eastern Europe has a significant potential for implementation of renewable energy in the world (such as solar and wind energies and hydroelectricity) and on the other, the region is extremely vulnerable to climate change.

Working languages of the Forum will be Croatian, French and English and simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Workshops will be held in English and Croatian and simultaneous interpretation will be provided. During the Forum, the participants are kindly invited to be actively involved in the debates and workshops.



Laurent Fabius—  
French Minister of Foreign Affairs

## Laurent Fabius: 'Climate disruption is a critical challenge for humanity'

In December, France will host the 21st United Nations Climate Conference. The aim? To reach a universal agreement that will limit the rise in average global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius, compared to the pre-industrial period, by the end of the century. As the president of the conference, known as COP21, my role will be to facilitate an ambitious compromise between 195 states — 196 parties when we include the European Union.

In the negotiations, the differences among countries that are at distinct stages of development require different approaches. Yet strong common interests unite us. Climate change upsets the full range of economic and social equilibrium. It can stoke conflicts over the control of vital and increasingly scarce resources — particularly water. By making certain areas uninhabitable, droughts and rising water levels uproot entire populations. Threats to peace and security will increase in number and intensity if the rise in temperatures exceeds 2 degrees Celsius — and this rise will happen if we fail to act or take insufficient action. In Egypt, an increase of 50 centimeters in the sea level would cause millions of people to flee the Nile Delta, with security consequences for the entire region. Climate disruption would exacerbate massive displacements of people in regions from Niger to the Persian Gulf.

It is thus essential to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, but also to reduce the exposure of people to the damage caused by climate change — in particular, by protecting coastlines from rising water levels and by organizing more effective management of water in dry areas. In the language of international negotiations, this is called 'adaptation', and it must be a central focus of the agreement that is to be reached at the end of 2015.

The massive use of fossil fuels — coal, oil, gas — has been a cause of international tensions ever since they have been central to our economies: Fossil fuel deposits are very unevenly distributed, leading to dependency, jealousy and tense competition. We need a 'global clean energy community' to free us from dependence on fossil fuels. The development of solar-

and wind-energy production improves energy security and security in general: Light and wind are not only renewable, they belong to all.

Consequently, it is essential for COP21 to provide the practical means to help countries reduce their exposure to climate damage and democratize energy access while reducing carbon intensity. Aligning all of our interests around them should allow us to reach a universal agreement. If we want to achieve this objective — and doing so is crucial for humanity — we will need everyone to contribute.

*Laurent Fabius is the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development and the President of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change [COP21] which will take place in Paris in December 2015.*

## Friday, 2 October

09:30–10:00

### Registration and welcome coffee

10:00–10:45

### Opening session

—'Special guest': Mr. Zoran VAKULA, Main Meteorologist, Croatian Radiotelevision

—Hrvoje DOKOZA, Deputy Minister of Environmental and Nature Protection  
—Pierre-Yves LE BORGNE, Member of French Parliament—Key Messages in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report: Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE, Université catholique de Louvain,  
Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

10:45–12:15

### Panel n°1: The scientific assessment: what risks are to be expected from climate change in Central and South-East Europe?

Moderator: Mr. Darijo BRZOJA, Meteorologist, Nova TV

Key speakers:

—Mr. Krešo PANDŽIĆ: Causes and indicators of global climate warming  
—Prof. Darko KORAČIN: Climate Modeling: New Challenges  
—Prof. Mirko ORLIĆ: Climate change, sea-level rise and coastal flooding  
—Mr. Ivan ČAČIĆ: Climate Change Impact in South East Europe and Croatia from the Fact to the Action, WMO Perspective

Open debate (30 minutes)

12:15.–13:30

### Slow Food advocacy for climate change mitigation: taste and practices through a lunch

### Workshops – Coordination: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection

Room 1

13.30 – 14.45

1) Climate Change in Urban Areas  
Moderation: Ljubomir MIŠČEVIĆ, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Architecture

Speakers:

—Daria POVH, PAP-RAC/UNEP-MAP  
—Željko JURIC, Energy institute Hrvoje Požar  
—Inge HEIM, AMZH

14.45 – 16.00

2) South-East Europe: towards transition to a low-carbon economy  
Moderation: Maja BOŽIČEVIĆ VRHOVČAK, NGO DOOR

Speakers:

—Maja BOŽIČEVIĆ VRHOVČAK i Ivana ROGULI, NGO DOOR  
—Igor RAGUZIN, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection  
—Zoran KORDIĆ, UNDP/Croatia

Reporter: Nicolas BERIOT, Secretary-General, Observatory on the Effects of Climate change (ONERC), France

Room 2

13.30 – 14.45

3) Water and Climate Change Adaptation  
Moderation: Danko BIONDIĆ, Croatian Water

Speakers:

—Sanja BARBALIĆ, Croatian Waters  
—Tatjana VUJINOVIĆ Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service  
—Slaven DOBROVIĆ, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture

14.45 – 16.00

4) Food Security and Climate Change  
Moderation: Željka ZGORELEC, Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb

Speakers:

—Željka ZGORELEC, Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb  
—Ivona BABIĆ, Ministry of Agronomy

Reporter: Višnja GRGASOVIĆ, Ministry for Environmental and Nature Protection

16:00–16:15

### Coffee break

16:15–18:15

### Panel n°2: Fighting climate change: a political project

Moderator: Ms. Jasenka NEČAK, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection

Key speakers:

—Mr. Pascal CANFIN: [The stakes and opportunities of COP21](#), Senior Adviser for Climate with the think-tank World Resources Institute, former Minister for International Development  
—Mr. Jean-Louis BAL: [Green energies: a political project for Europe?](#) President of the Union of Renewable Energies  
—Ms. Marija ŠČULAC DOMAC, [Climate change policy and Strategy for low-carbon economy in the Republic of Croatia](#), Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection  
—Mr. Ronan DANTEC: [Local governments in the run-up to Paris Climate 2015: from local stakeholders to global facilitators](#), French National Senator and UCLG's global spokesperson for climate issues.

Open debate (30 minutes)

## Saturday, 3 October

09:00–09:45

### Registration and welcome coffee

—'Special guest': Mr. Zoran VAKULA, Main Meteorologist, Croatian Radiotelevision

09:45 – 10:00

### Introduction

—Marija ŠČULAC DOMAC, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection

10:00 – 11:30

### Panel n°3: Toward a new global climate governance?

Moderator: Prof. Mirko ORLIĆ, Climatologist, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Key speakers:

—François GEMENNE, [The new geopolitics of climate change](#), Sciences Po Paris, Universities of Brussels, Liege and Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Director of the 'Sustainable Development' series at the publishing house Presses de Sciences Po, President of the think-tank Ecosphere  
—Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE, [How can the IPCC better serve the needs of policymakers and stakeholders?](#) Université catholique de Louvain, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
—Vladimir JELAVIĆ, Ekenerg – [Models and scenarios for Low carbon Development of the Republic of Croatia](#), Energy and Environmental Protection Institute  
—Julian POPOV, [Fighting climate change: an opportunity for SEE integration?](#) European Climate Forum  
—Tomislav TOMAŠEVIĆ, [Climate justice and governing of global commons](#) Institute for Political Ecology, Member of the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Council, representative of NGO.

Open debate (30 minutes)

11:30–12:30

### Plenary session

Feedback from the workshops and discussion in the presence of Zoran VAKULA, Nicolas BERIOT, Secretary-General, Observatory on the Effects of Climate change (France), Michael SCOULOS, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Aleksander KOVAČEVIĆ, Oxford energy institute, Višnja GRGASOVIĆ, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection.

12:30–14:00

### Climate Change and the Food, lunch

## Jean-Louis BAL

### To what extent is fighting climate change an opportunity for our economies and innovation?

Fighting climate change means that we should reduce drastically the use of fossil fuels which are most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. It is mandatory in this task to substitute them by renewable sources associated with a rational use of energy. The low prices of these fossil fuels today is a challenge, which we need to address by agreeing on international carbon emission fees, but also on an innovation policy, in order to constantly improve the competitiveness of renewable energies. For the last years we have been witnessing a rapid decrease in the cost of photovoltaic cells, continuous performance optimization of wind turbines, dramatic progress in batteries for storing energy, as well as an impressive development of smart grids. Such progress is a good sign for the implementation of added values and jobs for all of our societies, which cannot function anymore on non-renewable resources that are becoming scarcer. In 2014, green energy represented 7 million jobs throughout the world, which represents a very strong progress.

### What are the developments for renewable energy in Europe?

The development of large-scale renewable energy was launched in early 2000 by some of European countries as Denmark, Germany, Spain, Portugal and later, France. This dynamic in the European Union is good, due to the aim of reaching 20% of renewables in the energy mix by 2020 (10% in 2008; emerging countries as India, China, Brazil and South Africa are now the most proactive). The European Union has set a new target for 2030 of 27% of renewables in the energy mix, which is deceptive given the progress made in terms of profitability of renewables. For its part, France has recently adopted a Law on the Energy Transition to Green Growth, which sets several goals for 2030 including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 40% on the basis of the situation in 1990, and invites to increase the part of renewables up to 32% (currently 15%). This law also defines the governance tools in accordance with the French ambition to become exemplary in the context of COP21.

## Julian POPOV

### What role could the South-East European cooperation play in the mobilization against climate change?

South-East Europe has a unique mix of economically viable renewable energy resources and high potential in increasing its energy efficiency. This is a region with up to 50% higher solar irradiation than Germany – the European solar leader –, excellent wind potential, abundant biomass production and huge hydro-power generation and storage capacity, as well as potential that could balance the variable generation of other renewable sources. This is also the region with the lowest energy efficiency in Europe. In order to release their vast renewable and energy efficiency potential, the SEE countries need to develop a regional power market and a common infrastructure strategy, and also to build a regional investment case that would attract leading financial and strategic investors from around the world.

## Mirko ORLIĆ

### What consequences of climate change to expect in Croatia?

The rise of the sea level will threaten most of the lower parts of the Croatian coast, such as the Neretva River Delta or the Zadar hinterland. According to a recent study published by the Global Forum for Climate (Berlin) and the University Christian-Albrechts (Kiel), by the end of this century the annual flood damages combined with an increase of the sea level could be estimated from 1 to 9 billion dollars. Hopefully, with suitable investments in the construction and maintenance of protection structures, the damages could be significantly reduced.

## Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE

### What are the role and influence of climate scientists in raising public awareness and helping governments to make decisions?

Climatologists have contributed already in the 1960s to informing the policy makers about the risks associated with fossil fuel usage. With the creation of the IPCC in 1988, a further step was taken: the scientists were entrusted to evaluate the knowledge related to anthropogenic climate change and the ways in which it may be addressed – adaptation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – and all that within an organization where the member states of the United Nations are directly represented. The importance of the IPCC for societies was recognized in particular by the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 2007. The IPCC reports have provided a basis for the decision-making within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Today, many scientists provide useful information for understanding the problem and making decisions: some conduct fundamental research in climatology, which is essential in order to better understand the risks of dangerous changes; others analyze the vulnerability of societies and ecosystems and study the future evolution of risks, according to different scenarios and taking into account the potential policies and measures in terms of adaptation and reduction of emissions; last but not least, some are more directly involved in communicating to the decision-makers and the public, so as to build general awareness. The scientists' role is to observe, to elaborate tools to understand, to draw all possible conclusions for the future and to inform: beyond, the decisions made are determined by choices and value judgments which are outside of the scientific scope.

## Pascal CANFIN

### With only a few weeks left before the start of the COP21, can we expect a positive outcome?

Yes, I think we can, for a number of reasons. Firstly, China and the United States of America have reached an agreement on climate issues in November 2014. Until recently, China saw the commitment to reducing the emissions as a hurdle in its development while the USA refused to commit to the cause until China does so. Now the mentality in these two great emitters, that represent the third of the entire world emission, is evolving. The air-pocalypse, the fact that the air is becoming unbreathable in Chinese cities, pushes the Beijing government to react. In the United States, president Obama is highly engaged in the climate issues and wants it to become one of the key components of his legacy. Furthermore, the fact that, economically the most rational scenario is the one on climate action is making progress. The cost of inaction would be much higher than the investments necessary to get back on track compatible with the 2 degrees. The additional cost of the fossil energy alternatives is diminishing ceaselessly. The result: since 2013, the half of the new capacities of world electricity production is based on the renewable energies. This is something completely new, an indication of shift in the economic models. For all of these reasons, I am fairly optimistic that we will reach an agreement in Paris. However, it remains to be seen whether it will be enough to bring us below the 2°C warming mark. This will be the deciding point of the peace agreement: leading up to the COP21, we are on a path towards +4 degrees below the warming mark. Where will we be after the COP21?

## About speakers...

**Zoran VAKULA** is a very well-known personality in Croatia and the main meteorologist for the Croatian Radio and Television (HRT). He has been working for the Croatian National Weather Bureau since 1994 and has been a weather presenter for the HRT broadcast networking since 1996.

**François GEMENNE** is a specialist in environmental geopolitics. He lectures on these issues in Sciences Po Paris, the Free University of Brussels and other universities. His research mostly deals with displacements of population due to environmental changes and with the policies of adaptation to climate change.

**Ronan DANTEC** is a member of the French Parliament (Senate) for the Loire-Atlantique constituency. He is the Environment Spokesman for the global cities' network United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

**Pascal CANFIN** is a former French Minister for International Development (2012–2014). He was previously a Member of the European Parliament (2009–2012). Since 2014, he has been the Senior Advisor on Climate at World Resources Institute (WRI) for the preparation of COP21. He has recently published a new book entitled 'Climate: 30 questions to understand the Paris Conference', decrypting the challenges of COP 21 and guiding citizen mobilization on climate issues.

**Jean-Louis BAL**, a former Director at the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, holds the position of Chairman of the Renewable Energy Association (France), a trade association that covers all the sectors of the renewable energy businesses: wind, solar, hydro, biomass, marine energy, geothermal energy.

**Darko KORAČIN** investigates weather and climate phenomena through the development and application of high-resolution mesoscale meteorological models, microscale models, as well as global and regional climate models. His expertise includes transport and dispersion of atmospheric pollutants and tracers in complex terrain and coastal regions, air-sea interaction and coupling between atmospheric and ocean models, wind energy, etc.

**Mirko ORLIĆ** first worked as a researcher at the Center for Marine Research of the Rudjer Boskovic Institute in Zagreb and has been a professor at the Zagreb Faculty of Science since 1983. This prominent scientist is Member of the Croatian Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics, of the American Geophysical Union and the Oceanography Society. He has obtained a Fulbright awards and published over 50 scientific papers and about 60 scientific abstracts.

**Ivan ČAČIĆ** is the Director and Resident Representative of Croatian WMO Meteorological and Hydrological Service. He is also the Vice-President of the Council of the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT).

**Krešo PANDŽIĆ**, another renowned climatologist, is the deputy director of the Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service. He is also the representative of Croatia at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

**Vladimir JELAVIC** is the Director of Environment and Sustainable Development for the Institute for Energy and Environment. He is also an independent expert working as a part of the preparation of national reports regarding policy adaptation and mitigation of climate change in Croatia.

**Julian POPOV** is a former Bulgarian Minister of Environment (2013–2014) and a European Climate Foundation Fellow. He has established a network of senior climate campaigners in eight EU Member States, headed a project aimed at coaching editors of leading media on climate policy as well as a project seeking to raise policymakers' attention to health and security implications of climate change. He currently leads the South-East Europe Grid Initiative which catalyses high-level energy policy cooperation among countries in wider South-East Europe.

**Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE** is a Belgian Professor of Climatology and Environmental Sciences at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium). He is the Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He has been nominated by Belgium as a candidate to the position of Chair of the IPCC in the next Bureau (elections will be held during the next IPCC Plenary in Dubrovnik from 5 to 8 October 2015).

**Tomislav TOMAŠEVIĆ** currently works for the Institute for Political Ecology and he is the Member of the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Council. He was the leader of the ecological program at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Croatia. From 2007 to 2012 he was the Executive President of Green Action (Zelena akcija).

## What is the COP21?

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or COP21, will be held from November 30th to December 11th, 2015 in Paris-Le Bourget, bringing together around 40,000 participants in total – delegates representing each country, observers and civil society members. It is the largest diplomatic event ever hosted by France and one of the largest climate conferences ever organized.

The stakes are high: the aim is to reach, for the first time, a universal, legally-binding agreement that will enable us to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies. To achieve this, the future agreement must focus equally on mitigation – that is, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global warming to below 2°C – and societies' adaptation to existing climate changes. These efforts must take into account the needs and capacities of each country. The agreement will enter into force in 2020 and will need to be sustainable to enable long-term change.

In addition, each country must publish its national contribution and present its national efforts before the COP21. This exercise is a new development in international climate negotiations. France has undertaken to help certain countries that are in difficulty to prepare their contribution, so that each one can present a national contribution to the global effort against climate change that corresponds to its situation. Shortly before the COP21, the UNFCCC secretariat will publish a summary of these contributions, to give an indication of the cumulative impact of all these efforts.

Another key objective of the COP21 is the mobilization of \$100 billion per year by developed countries, from public and private sources, from 2020. This commitment, made in Copenhagen, should enable developing countries to combat climate change whilst promoting fair and sustainable development. Some of these

funds will pass through the Green Climate Fund, which has received initial capital of \$10.2 billion, including almost \$1 billion from France. More generally, the COP21 needs to guide economic and financial stakeholders towards redirecting their investments in order to launch the transition to low-carbon economies.

Many initiatives are currently being developed by a range of non-governmental stakeholders: cities, regions, businesses, associations and so on. This is known as the Agenda of Solutions. Since the New York Climate Summit of September 2014, there has been a growing trend towards concrete action, exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer. These initiatives will supplement States' commitments, raise awareness of economic and social opportunities, and thus help to strengthen individual ambitions.

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4

3

2

1

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