

Prospects for Carbon Pricing in Europe and the United States

A Research Workshop Co-Hosted by:

Harvard Project on Climate Agreements
Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po Paris

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

10:00 am – 1:00 pm U.S. Eastern Daylight Time

3:00 – 6:00 pm Central European Time

Background and Motivation

With the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the United States has re-committed to the Paris Agreement and to ambitious domestic efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More broadly, the Biden Administration will re-engage more constructively with the world, including Europe. The hosts of this workshop wish to take advantage of an opportunity for renewed transatlantic academic dialogue on climate change policy. In particular, researchers from the two universities wish to exchange insights on carbon pricing – a topic of mutual interest – from the disciplinary perspectives of both economics and political science. The agenda includes a normative assessment of carbon pricing – examining the relative merits of alternative carbon pricing systems, and of carbon pricing and policy instruments relying on uniform standards. Participants will then examine prospects for carbon pricing in Europe and the United States – focusing in part on sub-national carbon-pricing systems in the latter.

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Participants

Names are linked to biographies

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Agenda: Prospects for Carbon Pricing in Europe and the United States

All times U.S. Eastern Daylight Time

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome

Robert Stavins, Harvard University
Arnault Barichella, Sciences Po

10:05 – 10:15 Overview and Self-Introductions

Session 1: Normative Assessment of Carbon-Pricing and Other Policy Instruments

Moderator: Cornelia Woll, Sciences Po

10:15 – 10:30 Relative Merits of Alternative Carbon-Pricing Systems

Robert Stavins, Harvard University

10:30 – 10:45 Relative Merits of Carbon Pricing and Uniform Standards

Aurélien Saussay, London School of Economics

10:45 – 10:55 Responses

Meriem Hamdi-Cherif, Sciences Po
Richard Schmalensee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

10:55 – 11:25 Discussion

11:25 – 11:40 Break

Session 2: Positive Political Economy and Politics of Carbon Pricing

Moderator: Robert Stavins, Harvard University

11:40 – 12:00 Status of and Prospects for Carbon Pricing in Europe

Meriem Hamdi-Cherif, Sciences Po
Paul Malliet, Sciences Po

12:00 – 12:20 Status of and Prospects for Carbon Pricing in the United States

Joseph Aldy, Harvard University
Nathaniel Keohane, Environmental Defense Fund

12:20 – 12:35 Responses

Cornelia Woll, Sciences Po
Colin Hay, Sciences Po
James Stock, Harvard University

12:35 – 13:00 Discussion; closing remarks