

REPORT ON THESEUS EUROPE@WORK 2015: EUROPEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY

PARIS AND BRUSSELS, 8-12 JUNE 2015

Five days of interesting debates on “European Energy and Climate Policy” awaited the participants of the Europe@Work Seminar 2015. From 8 to 12 June, 30 international master students from the fields of political science and economics spent their time in Paris and Brussels to discuss their seminar topic with numerous decision-makers and experts from renowned institutions, organisations and companies. The students came from the University of Cologne, the Turkish-German University and Charles University in Prague. In their talks, they spoke about the development and associated challenges of European Energy Policy, including risks of market stability, energy prices, the Emissions Trading System (ETS), benchmarks to reduce CO₂-Emissions, the cooperation between member states and incentives for investors.

Among the visited institutions in Paris were Sciences Po Paris, the company Electricité de France, the OECD and the International Energy Agency, the European Union Institute for Security Studies, and Institut français des relations internationales. In Brussels, the students met with experts from the European Climate Foundation, the association Eurelectric, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission.

On 9 July 2015, the seminar was closed with a roundtable discussion on the topic "European Energy Security: Consequences after the Ukraine Crisis. The Future Role of Turkey". The roundtable was chaired by Prof. Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Cologne. The panellists were Prof. Atila Eralp, Middle East Technical University Ankara (METU), and Dr. Harald Hecking, Institute of Energy Economics, University of Cologne (EWI), as well as two political science and economic students from the University of Cologne. The audience could get engaged in the later open discussion. Among the topics addressed were the costs of European energy supply, the need for more diversification with a focus on Turkey's role, followed by more precise explanations on EU-Turkey relations in energy issues and Turkey's function as a transit state or energy hub.

The evaluation of the seminar and follow-up discussions show that the students look back positively to the THESEUS Europe@Work excursion 2015. All students consider the excursion as having been very useful. They valued the chance of getting direct insides in institutions involved in the shaping of European energy and climate policy and exchanging views with political actors and international participants of the excursion. Both the institutions and companies visited and the prevailing working atmosphere were considered as having been very good. All students would recommend the excursion to other possible participants in upcoming years.