

Public discussion organised in the framework of the *Rencontres de Schwarzenbergplatz*

## **Energy, Climate and European sovereignty**

**12 June 2024 18h00-20h00**

**Embassy of France, Technikerstraße 2, A-1020 Vienna**

Climate change, with its dramatic impact on our future, is a civilisational challenge both in Europe and across the world. To address it, France, Austria and the European Union have initiated an unprecedented green and technological transition, guided by ambitious decarbonisation strategies. Extensive measures promoting innovation, with the parallel advancement of the carbon market, aim at transforming carbon-intensive modes of production and consumption.

This transition, however, takes place in a geopolitical context that imposes new realities in Europe. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has brutally exposed European vulnerabilities due to its dependence on Russian gas. The challenge for the European Union, is to accelerate the necessary transition to clean energy while at the same time avoiding new dependencies and ensuring its energy and technological security, thereby contributing to Europe's sovereignty.

What are the main vulnerabilities that the European Union is facing in its quest for energy sovereignty and green transition? How can the European Union reinforce security in its energy supply chain, and with which partners? What potential can the European tap in building up the production of primary decarbonised energy on European soil? What role can't hydrogen and nuclear energy play therein? And how to further encourage innovation, research and development?

*Working language: English*

18h00 *Opening*

**Frédéric Joureau**, Chargé d'affaires a.i. at the Embassy of France to Austria

18h05 *Keynote*

**Caroline Vermeulen**, Ambassador of Belgium to Austria

18h20 *Discussion*

**Diana-Paula Gherasim**, Research Fellow, Head of European energy and climate policies at the Center for Energy & Climate of the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri), Paris

**Zuzanna Nowak**, Analysis Director -Energy and climate policy analyst at the Opportunity Institute for Foreign Affairs, Warsaw

**Romana Jungwirth Březovská**, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs, CzechGlobe – Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences Prague

**Benigna Boza-Kiss**, research scholar at the Energy, Climate, and Environment (ECE) program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Chair : **Christina Maria Huber**, Head of Sustainability at neoom international gmbh

19h55 *Conclusion*

**Dietmar Schweisgut**, Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe

20h00 *end of the discussion*