

Europe's new competitiveness focus: a sustainable path for the future?

JOINT WEBINAR
WG Sustainable Development &
WG Energy & Climate

Context

The new competitiveness-focus of the EU was introduced to prevent that the EU falls behind other global economic powers. It is meant to drive innovation and increase the attractiveness of the EU market by simplifying existing and future policies and ensuring policy coherence. To do this, the EU has announced several instruments and plans such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the Competitiveness Compass.

While the EU has repeatedly promised not to change its course towards rapid decarbonisation, the policy implications are unclear. Moreover, the competitiveness concept itself lacks a clear definition at the macro-economic scale. Hence there are concerns that focusing on indicators such as GDP will lead to unintended negative consequences.

This webinar will explore if and how the concept of broad welfare/prosperity can be integrated with the new policy focus. Additionally, the effects of competitiveness policies on the EU energy sector will be explored in the form of a case study.

Agenda



15 September
13:00 - 14:30 CET
Via Teams

- 13:00** Opening remarks by WG co-chairs
- 13:05** **Setting the scene, using energy as a case study - Folmer de Haan** (Rli Council for the Environment and Infrastructure, The Netherlands)
- 13:10** **Competitiveness, the new focus in Europe - Maurits Pino** Senior Expert, DG GROW, European Commission
- 13:40** **A critical look at the new developments: competitiveness vs broad welfare - Gábor Bartus** (Hungarian National Council for Sustainable Development)
- 13:45** **How to define competitiveness in the context of broad welfare? - Sander de Bruyn** (PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
- 14:15** Next steps and closing remarks by WG Co-chairs