

Swiss Science Briefing 2018

# Climate change: What does Europe need to solve this global challenge?

04 September 2018 – 17:30

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union  
Place du Luxembourg 1,  
1050, Brussels



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# Event Summary



Maintaining a strong and forward-looking climate change research agenda in Europe is more important than ever. Together with a long-term technology and research & innovation (R&I) strategy, it will be the key element for Europe to remain competitive on the complex and difficult path of the coming decades towards reaching the targets of the Paris Agreement, and more broadly the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 9th European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon Europe) will play a crucial role in reaching these goals. Climate science will be an essential element of the Global Challenges pillar in FP9 and could constitute a particularly relevant topic for a 'mission'. However, the essence and the objectives of the projects and initiatives that will be funded under FP9 need to be well defined for Europe to deliver on climate targets.

The work of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is essential at the global level to guide climate research. Horizon Europe should also rely on its work and on the expertise of leading climate scientists. Where do we stand globally in climate research? Is Europe well equipped to tackle the global challenge of climate change? Is Horizon Europe adequately designed to tackle this challenge? What type of technologies does Europe need to develop to fight climate change? What 'mission' should R&I stakeholders gather around? Does Europe actually need more research on climate or only political action?

With this Swiss Science Briefing, two world leading climate scientists and two European policymakers will reflect on these questions and elaborate on what Europe needs to solve the global challenge of climate change.

# Event Agenda



**From 17:00**

**Registration**

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**17:30**

Welcome

**Urs Bucher,**

Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU

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**17:35**

Working towards global sustainability: the role of a research-intensive university

**Christian Leumann,**

Rector of the University of Bern

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**17:40**

Keynote: "Climate change: European science for informed decisions and smart solutions."

**Thomas Stocker,**

Climate and Environmental Physicist, University of Bern

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**18:00**

Panel discussion with responses from

**Bas Eickhout,**

Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, European Parliament

**Patrick Child,**

Deputy Director-General, DG RTD

moderated by **Florence Balthasar**, SwissCore

closing remarks by **Jan Palmowski**, the Guild

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**19:15**

Networking Apéro

# Speakers

**Thomas Stocker**, Climate and Environmental Physicist, University of Bern

Thomas Stocker is a leading climate scientist who obtained his PhD in Natural Sciences of ETH Zurich and held research positions at University College London, McGill University (Montreal), Columbia University (New York) and the University of Hawai'i (Honolulu). Since 1993 he has been a Professor of Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern. A holder of prestigious awards, such as the Hans Oeschger Medal of the European Geosciences Union (2009), he acted as Co-Chair of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I between 2008 and 2015. The comprehensive assessment report delivered by the Working Group provides the scientific foundation of the Paris Agreement.

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**Patrick Child**, Deputy Director-General, DG RTD

Patrick Child has been Deputy Director General of DG RTD since April 2016. In his function, he supervises the Directorates I (Climate Action and Resource Efficiency), G (Energy), and R (Resources). A mathematician by training, Patrick Child joined the European Commission in 1994, where he held several leading positions, such as Managing Director of the European External Service.

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**Bas Eickhout**, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, European Parliament

Bas Eickhout is a Member of the European Parliament for GroenLinks, the Dutch Greens. He is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and a substitute member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Transport and Tourism. He is also a member of the Delegation for relations with the United States and a substitute member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.

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