EU POLICY RETREAT 2023
AT PEACE CASTLE SCHLAINING

Europe's Race to Green Growth

Between Friendshoring, Protectionism and Strategic Sovereignty

Set against the background of the return of confrontational geopolitics, different strategies to support the green transition in the EU, the US and Asia and a renewed interest in sustainable trade agreements, the **EU Policy Retreat 2023** is convening a select group of influential decision-makers and thought leaders in politics, business, civil society and academia to discuss **Europe's Race to Green Growth**. Keynotes, panels and structured sessions are complemented by ample opportunities for bilateral exchanges in a relaxed atmosphere.

15 to 17 June 2023

Peace Castle Schlaining

Burgenland, Austria

European Commission

Austrian Society for European Politics

European Commission

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EU POLICY RETREAT 2023

Europe's Race to Green Growth

PROGRAMME

Thursday 15 June

Arrival and Check-in

18.00	**Welcome aperitif**
19.00	**Opening words** by **Paul SCHMIDT**, Secretary General of the Austrian Society for European Politics
19.30	**Welcome dinner**
	Opening dialogue: "The US Inflation Reduction Act and its main elements: How much do Europeans have to worry?" with
	Victoria REGGIE KENNEDY, Ambassador of the United States of America to Austria
	Martin SELMAYR, European Commission Representative to Austria, former Secretary-General of the European Commission
	Discussion

Friday 16 June

09.00 - 10.15	**Keynote speech**: "Risk or Opportunity: an Outlook on the Future of Global Trade and Europe´s Supply Chains" by
	Gabriel FELBERMAYR, Director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research and President of the Supply Chain Intelligence Institute Austria
	Discussion
10.15 - 10.45	**Coffee break**

European Commission

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Austrian Society for European Politics

10.45 - 12.15 **Workshops (2 in parallel)**

Workshop I: **"Trade and Climate: Cooperation on the Path to Net Zero"**

In order to make trade work for the green transition, Europe needs to cooperate globally. How can we fight climate change without compromising on the principles of fair competition and open trade, and what role do the World Trade Organization, free trade agreements and initiatives like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism play on our way towards carbon neutrality?

Host: **Tim Joris KAISER**, European Commission
Kick-off: **Irene CARATELLI**, Associate Professor, The American University of Rome
Panellists: **Dominic KÖFNER**, Vice President Global Corporate Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainability Reporting, Lenzing AG
Lena GERDES, PhD Candidate and Research Associate, Vienna University of Business and Economics and Member of Attac Austria

Workshop II: **"Friendshoring: Be Careful What You Wish For"**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen describes the EU geopolitical strategy as 'de-risking without decoupling'. Bringing back production to European or nearby shores can be part of avoiding asymmetric dependencies, but 'friendshoring' also requires reshaping supply chains. What pitfalls do we need to avoid?

Host: **Sabine BERGER,** European Commission
Kick-off: **Hector TORRES**, Former Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund
Panellists: **Katarína ROTH NEVEĎALOVÁ**, Member of the European Parliament
Eva-Maria SÉGUR-CABANAC, Partner at Baker McKenzie Rechtsanwälte LLP & Co KG

12.30 - 14.10 **Lunch**

Keynote speech: "Skills for the Future: Preparing EU Industry and the Labour Force" by

Martin KOCHER, Federal Minister of Labour and Economy of Austria

Discussion

14.15 - 15.30 **Leaders' dialogue**: "Global Alliances for Sustainability and Competitiveness" with

Sabine HERLITSCHKA, Chief Executive Officer of Infineon Technologies Austria and Advisory Board Chair of the Supply Chain Intelligence Institute Austria

Mathias CORMANN, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Discussion

15.30 - 16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00 - 17.30 **Workshops (2 in parallel)**

Workshop I: **"Clean Tech Made in Europe: Need for Skills"**

Labour markets are tight in most of Europe, nowhere more so than in Austria. At the same time, the green transition along with technological progress is transforming the global ecosystem, increasing the need for an upskilled and reskilled workforce. What initiatives has Europe taken, and what does it still need to lead the green skills revolution?

Host: **Anna KNYAZEVA**, European Commission
Kick-off: **Joost KORTE**, Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
Panellists: **Katharina GNATH**, Senior Programme Manager, Programm Zukunft Europas, Bertelsmann Stiftung
Johannes KOPF, Member of the Executive Board, Austrian Public Employment Service, and Chair, Network of the European Public Employment Services
Simon ENGELKE, Founder and Chair, Battery Associates

Workshop II: **"Industrial Competitiveness and the Level Playing Field"**

The EU Green Deal Industrial Plan aims to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and accelerate the transition to climate neutrality. Will these regulatory measures succeed in supporting and scaling up the EU's manufacturing capacity? What else is needed to enhance European competitiveness and fair competition worldwide?

Host: **Alexander WINTERSTEIN**, European Commission
Kick-off: **Angela KÖPPL**, Senior Economist, Austrian Institute for Economic Research (WIFO)
Panellists: **Wolfgang EDER**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, voestalpine AG
Annette TRAWNICEK, Vice President, AmCham Austria and Managing Director, HP Enterprise

17.30 - 18.45 **Break**

18.45 - 19.00 **Family picture (on the bridge)**

19.00 **Dinner**

Keynote speech: "Green Growth: A Sustainable Path for Europe and its Global Partners" by

Leonore GEWESSLER, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria

Discussion

Closing remarks: "Burgenland: A Winner or Loser of Globalisation?" by

Hans Peter DOSKOZIL, Governor of Burgenland, Austria

Wine tasting upon the invitation of the Governor of Burgenland

Saturday 17 June

09.00 - 10.15 **Leaders' dialogue**: "The EU Budget and the Green Transition: Do We Need a European Sovereignty Fund?" with

Johannes HAHN, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration

Martin SANDBU, Financial Times European Economics Commentator

Discussion

10.15 - 10.45 **Coffee break**

10.45 - 12.15 **Workshops (2 in parallel)**

Workshop I: **"Europe in the Age of Geoeconomics"**

Europe is learning the language of power. In protecting its interests globally, the EU needs to leverage its economic strength as well as have adequate answers to other actors employing economic tools. What can be done to make Europe speak power more fluently, and who must do it?

Host: **Paul SCHMIDT**, Secretary General of the Austrian Society for European Politics
Kick-off: **Wilhelm MOLTERER**, Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria
Panellists: **Louise VAN SCHAIK**, Head of the Unit EU & Global Affairs, Clingendael Institute
Peter KLIMEK, Faculty Member, Complexity Science Hub Vienna and Director, Supply Chain Intelligence Institute Austria

Workshop II: **"Investing Into Green Transition and European Sovereignty"**

In the past decades, Europe has been said to outsource its security, energy and growth markets to external partners. Regaining and preserving sovereignty may hence be costly. Building on the previous discussions, what investments are now called for, and how can additional financing needs be met?

Host: **Jozef VASAK,** European Commission
Kick-off: **Velina TCHAKAROVA**, Founder, FACE for a Conscious Experience e.U.
Panellists: **Mariana KÜHNEL**, Deputy Secretary General, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber
Stefan LINDTNER, Chief Technology Officer, CCE Holding

12.15 - 12.30 **Closing remarks** by **Martin SELMAYR** and **Paul SCHMIDT**

12.30 - 13.30 **Farewell lunch**