Alpbach Political Symposium

Public breakout session

“Future Energy Needs vs. Non-Proliferation Policies”


This session will address the potential role of nuclear power in helping to meet long-term energy demands in ways that address safety and security concerns. In particular, it will discuss technical and political non-proliferation challenges and policies related to the development of nuclear energy worldwide. The session follows on the heels of a 2.5-day closed seminar at Alpbach on “Nuclear futures?” jointly organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS) through the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, the Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid Directorate-General (DEVCO) of the European Commission, and the Commission’s Joint Research Center (JRC).

The Fukushima accident has had some impact in Western countries but less on nuclear power expansion in emerging markets. Will the transformation in the Middle East lead to a rethinking of nuclear energy projects in the region? Could we expect new or less conflicts on resources in 2030? Will export controls prevent or enable countries to embark on new technologies? Are renewables an alternative?

Four specific topics will be addressed:

1. **Global energy development**, by Dr. Hans-Holger Rogner, Senior research scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); formerly Section Head of the Planning and Economics Studies Section, Department of Nuclear Energy of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
2. **Nuclear safety and nuclear security**, by Dr. Vladimir Šucha, Director-General of the JRC;
3. **Non-proliferation**, by Ambassador Jacek Bylica, Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament at the EEAS;

This session will be chaired by Mr. Mark Fitzpatrick, Director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS, London) and co-founder of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium. The four presentations will be followed by an open discussion with the audience.
Ambassador Jacek Bylica is Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament at the European External Action Service (EEAS). Prior to joining EEAS in 2013, he was Head of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-proliferation Centre (WMDC) at NATO International Staff in Brussels. In this capacity he also co-chaired the NATO-Russia Council’s Working Group on Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation. From 2004 to 2008 Amb. Bylica was Poland’s Resident Representative to Vienna-based international organisations and control regimes, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. Mark Fitzpatrick is Director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London. He is the author of Overcoming Pakistan’s Nuclear Dangers (2014) and The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: Avoiding worst-case outcomes (2008) and the editor of five IISS Strategic Dossiers on countries and regions of proliferation concern. He has lectured throughout the world and is a frequent media commentator on proliferation topics. He joined IISS in October 2005 after a 26-year career in the US Department of State, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Non-Proliferation (acting). He is a founding member of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium.

Mr. Wolfgang Lehofer is Policy Coordinator and Programme Manager of the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation of the European Commission. Before taking this position in 2012, he was a Commercial Attaché at the Austrian Embassy in Brussels and, earlier, head of the EU Liaison office of the Austria Development Agency. He has also served as a policy adviser for the European Commission’s DG Information Society and for the CEO of GreenOneTec, Ebenthal, Austria. He did post-graduate studies in international business at the Ecole Superieur de Commerce in Rennes, France, and at the Université de Paris IX (Faculté Jean Monnet)/Centre Européen de Recherches Internationales et Stratégiques.

Dr. H-Holger Rogner holds an MSc in industrial engineering (1975) and a PhD in energy economics (1981). For most of his career, he has been engaged in comprehensive energy system analysis, energy modelling and integrated resource planning. Until his retirement from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2012, he directed the IAEA programme on Capacity Building and Nuclear Knowledge Maintenance for Sustainable Energy Development. Dr. Rogner holds positions of Affiliate Professor, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden and Senior Research Scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria.

Dr. Vladimir Šucha is Director-General of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, its in-house scientific service. He was Deputy Director-General of the JRC between 2012 and 2013. Prior to that, he spent 6 years in the position of director for culture and media in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. Before joining the European Commission, he held various positions in the Slovak Republic in the area of European and international affairs. He has followed a long-term academic and research career, being a full professor in Slovakia and visiting professor/scientist at different academic institutions in many countries. He published more than 100 scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.