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2014 POLICY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The conference on *Environment and Energy: Comparison of US and EU policies* will be held on the 21st and 22nd of March, 2014. The conference is organized by Prof. Gamper-Rabindran, from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, in collaboration with colleagues from the Swanson School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Public Health, coordinated and principally funded by the EU Center of Excellence through a grant from the European Union.

THE EUROPEAN CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

The European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) has been active in promoting transatlantic research and improving evidence-based policy-making in both the EU and the US. President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, delivered keynote lectures at Pitt in 2006 and 2009 and accepted an honorary doctorate of Public and International Affairs in 2009. The Center hosts the Jean Monnet Chair, held by Vice Provost Alberta Sbragia, and is one of the ten American centers funded by the European Union.

The Center organizes major conferences on political, economic, and environmental issues of concern to both the US and the EU. The recent REACH conference (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) brought together scholars, policymakers and industry representatives from the EU and the US, to discuss policy innovation in the management of industrial risks. Annually, the Center hosts 10-12 academics, journalists, policy makers, and diplomats, promotes information exchanges and research collaboration, and disseminates peer-reviewed results through its own e-journal, *The Pittsburgh Papers on the European Union*. In recognition of its services, Pitt's EUCE won the Outstanding Outreach Activity Award among European Centers in the US.

AGENDA

The conference promotes evidence-based policy-making on environment and energy, drawing on policy experiences and research knowledge from the US and the EU. Specifically, we focus on the challenge of securing energy for economic growth and at the same time, ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. The broader conference agenda examines the choice of the energy portfolio of various countries, and how trade-offs should be struck on the benefits and risks of various energy resources. The narrower agenda examines the development of shale gas, its benefits and potential risks, and strategies to mitigate these risks.

The conference format encourages exchange of ideas through informal discussions built around presentations. The first set of presenters will discuss how countries have considered or failed to sufficiently consider the environmental aspects of their energy policies. They will examine

reforms that may lead to more informed trade-offs on the benefits and risks of different energy sources. Prof. Miranda Schreurs from the Free University of Berlin, who serves on the German Advisory Council of the Environment, which recently published a report on hydraulic fracturing, will consider German energy policies. She will discuss on the Energiewende and the role of shale gas within this broader context. Prof. Karen Pittel serves as Professor in Energy, Climate and Exhaustible Natural Resources at the University of Munich and serves on the German National Foundation study group on the Future of the Earth. She organized the recent workshop, held jointly with Potsdam Climate Institute, on the Transition towards Global Carbon Pricing and Fossil Energy Markets. Prof. Pittel will discuss market and other policy instruments to incentive the transition towards a low-carbon economy, and the role of shale in this transition. Prof. James Skea CBE holds the Chair for Sustainable Energy at Imperial College London and serves as Research Councils UK Energy Strategy Fellow. Drawing on his research on the security of gas supply, Prof. Skea will discuss energy policies in the UK and the potential role and limitations of shale gas as a bridging fuel in the transition towards renewable energy.

The second set of presenters will focus on various aspects of shale gas based on the US experience, with a focus on Pennsylvania. Prof. Gamper-Rabindran (Pitt) will discuss what researchers and policymakers can learn about the shale industry from inspections data. Prof. Mitchell Small, from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), will discuss the knowledge and gaps in knowledge on shale gas drilling identified during the National Research Council workshops that he is leading.

Prof. Richard Newell (Duke University) will discuss the climate impacts of shale gas. Prof. Radisav Vidic (Pitt) will focus on monitoring water quality and regional water management. Prof. Robert Jackson (Duke University) will discuss evidence to date on the link between shale gas exploration and water quality. Prof. Elizabeth Casman (CMU) will discuss the problems posed by abandoned wells. Dr. Alan Krupnick (Resources for the Future) will discuss RFF's research on the impacts of shale gas development. Prof. Joseph Ryan (University of Colorado at Boulder) will discuss the availability of data and the difficulties in securing data to conduct research on the impacts of shale gas drilling.

Mr. Mark Brownstein (Environmental Defense Fund) will discuss EDF's work with the shale gas industry in establishing voluntary standards and the successes and limitations of this effort. Prof. Spence from UT Austin will discuss regulations in the shale sector. Prof. Bernard Goldstein (Pitt) will speak on the public health aspects of shale gas and the need for greater transparency in the shale gas sector. Prof. John Keeler (Pitt) will discuss the potential for reform in light of the politics surrounding shale gas development in Pennsylvania.

GOALS

First, the conference encourages information exchange between researchers and policy analysts at the European Commission. Michael Schuetz from the Directorate General on the Energy will be presenting the work of his unit. We have also invited a representative from DG Environment. Both Directorates are working on Commission reports on the economics, technological environmental and social aspects of shale gas drilling.

Second, the information exchange lays the groundwork for future collaborations among the conference participants. Participants who work in the area of environmental risk management as

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engineers, public health specialists, economists, lawyers, or political scientists will facilitate a multidisciplinary approach in improving risk management in the energy arena.

PRODUCTS

The conference has set up a dedicated website. We will be updating the website with presenters' biosketches and the conference agenda. Participants' papers and presentations will be posted to disseminate research findings, suggested reforms and gaps in knowledge that require further research. This information can contribute to public debate as well as encourage longer-term collaboration among conference participants.

PERSONNEL

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