



The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and Menéndez Pelayo International University bring the Energy and Climate Change School 2013 to an end

- Over the three days of the School, economists and experts have examined the central theme of this edition, “The global governance of climate change”.
- The director of the 9th edition of the School, Josep Borrell Fontelles, professor of economics at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a director of Abengoa, gave the closing lecture.

Seville, 25 April 2013. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and Menéndez Pelayo International University today brought the ninth edition of the Energy and Climate Change School to a close. Entitled “*The global governance of climate change*”, the School brought together important economists, scientists and environmentalists at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville over the course of three days.

The Energy and Climate Change School offered a total of ten lectures from 23 to 25 April that examined every aspect of climate change, one of the major political and economic problems of our time. A dozen experts in economics and climate analysed the legal, technical, political and economic aspects of the global fight against climate change.

On the first day of the School, Michael Zammit Cutajar, former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, gave the opening lecture on “*Climate change negotiations: Lessons from 25 years*” in which he analysed the United Nations’ approach to climate change from the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988, through to the present day. Zammit Cutajar explained his belief that “climate change can be stabilised at an economic cost borne by the markets”.

Wednesday began with a lecture by Jacques Le Cacheux, head of the Economic Research Department at the French Economic Observatory (OFCE) in Paris, entitled “*Fighting climate change by pricing carbon: Lessons from experience with carbon markets and carbon tax*”, which focused on the European carbon market and EU tax policies in relation to the environment. The French economist said, “The European Union has not fulfilled its promises of implementing tax policies that incentivise a reduction in CO₂ emissions, having subsidised fossil energy and reduced aid for renewable energy”. He was followed by Lara Lázaro, director of the environmental management masters course at IE University, who spoke on “*Cities in the global governance of climate change*”, highlighting the need for joint cooperation in the fight against climate change, especially by cities, which generate between 50 to 80% of global CO₂ emissions. Lázaro warned that if action is not taken soon, “The cities of southern Europe will suffer increases of up to 7°C during the hottest months of the year”.



Following a visit to Abengoa's Solúcar Platform in Sanlúcar la Mayor, Seville, the day continued with a presentation by the manager of the TVE Meteorology Department and Vice-president of the Association of Weather Broadcasters, Mónica López. Her talk on "*Communication of climate change*" examined the importance of weather bulletins on television, as well as the role of broadcasters in conveying the climate change message. "We in the media must ensure that the dispute over climate change disappears, because there is no dispute. We are talking about scientific evidence", she said. Finally, José Manuel Cansino, senior lecturer in economics at the University of Seville, brought Wednesday to an end with his lecture on "*New scenarios in the geopolitics of climate change*". Cansino gave a retrospective analysis of climate change since the Rio Summit in 1992 and outlined the new geopolitical landscape in the fight against climate change, "in which there are parties with real and conflicting interests that need to come to the negotiating table".

Teresa Ribera, General Manager of Strategic Development and International New Markets at Isofotón, opened Thursday's session with a talk entitled, "*Is global governance of climate change possible?*", in which she analysed the current state of the climate change debate, which has seen new players and participation channels open up. Ribera insisted that every country needs to be present at the negotiating table and for "new participation channels for all political and social players, beyond just governmental institutions".

She was followed by Natalia Fabra, a lecturer in economics at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and secretary of this edition of the School, who spoke about "*Emissions markets: evaluation and economic impact*". Fabra talked about the European emissions trading scheme (ETS) and its characteristics and about proposed reforms to stabilise "excessive volatility in the carbon price". According to this economist, "the carbon price must be stable and high for companies to invest in less polluting technologies".

The day continued with a round table about the "*Social and economic impact of the fight against climate change*", moderated by M. Alejandro Cardenete, professor of applied economics at Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla, in which participants looked at potential political, economic and tax solutions to climate change. Cardenete and the other speakers all agreed on "the importance of reviewing tax policies that favour both the economy and the environment". After the round table, Antonio Soria, head of the Climate Change, Energy and Transport Unit of the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) in Seville, spoke about "*The package of climate change adaptation policies*", in which he analysed the economic and social costs of climate change in the region. According to Soria, these costs translate into "problems related to agriculture, food shortages, the disappearance of ecosystems and the increase in extreme weather phenomenon, among other issues".

The director of the ninth edition, Josep Borrell Fontelles, concluded the Energy and Climate Change School 2013 with a talk about "*Europe and energy transition in the face of climate change*", in which he examined the role of the European Union as a global leader in the fight against climate change. Borrell reiterated the importance that a continent such as Europe, with a strong energy dependency, could not do without



environmental policies that promote the development of renewable energy, despite the current difficult economic climate. Furthermore, the former president of the European Parliament called on EU institutions to understand that, “the fight against climate change is not the enemy of economic growth and employment, but just the opposite”. With this final lecture, Josep Borrell brought the ninth edition of the School to an end, which has once again been a success based on the large number of people that attended.

Menéndez Pelayo University

The UIMP has an interdisciplinary academic and cultural program, which combines tradition and innovation with quality and prestige. It is currently the only presence-based university associated with the Ministry of Education, although it does not have its own academic staff. It operates by continuously inviting the academic, intellectual, scientific and artistic elite in Spain and internationally, to lecture in its auditoriums.

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa’s directors the importance of the company’s involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm’s core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez’s Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.

For more information:

Abengoa Communication Department

Patricia Malo de Molina

Tel: +34 954 93 71 11

E-mail:

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