



European Commissioner Climate Action Connie Hedegaard:
“JPI Climate crucial for European Climate Policy”

The official launch event of JPI Climate "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe" took place on November 6th 2012 in the Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels.

The event was a great success: after an enthusiastic opening by **Wilfried Kraus**, chairman of JPI Climate, more than ninety participants including representatives from all JPI Climate members discussed with renowned speakers challenges in tightening the links between science, practice and innovation in climate research.

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, emphasized how significant JPI Climate is for European Climate policy as a platform for climate change discussion and responses as well as to facilitate coordination and collaboration in this complex reality of climate change based on scientific evidence.

Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director-General, Research & Innovation DG, welcomed the participants to the first official presentation of JPI Climate and appreciated a large attendance.



The key note presentations by **Katherine Richardson** (University of Copenhagen) and **Asuncion Lera St. Clair** (CICERO, University of Oslo) outlined the JPI challenge from the perspective of scientific and social innovation respectively.

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Following the presentations, the Interactive Panel Discussion was moderated by **Antonio Navarra** (Director of Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Italy). The panellists, including **Frans Berkhout** (Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) and the Amsterdam Global Change Institute) and **Andrea Tilche** (EC - DG Research and Innovation, Head of Unit Climate

Change and Natural Hazards), **Katherine Richardson** and **Asuncion Lera St. Clair** agreed on the importance of the awareness that current and future climate research must be increasingly oriented towards the real needs of decision-makers from politics, the economy and civil society.

With closing remarks from **Andrea Tilche**, the event ended with a reception in the famous Dinosaur Gallery.

Wilfried Kraus concludes the need for the JPI Climate network to aim at close collaboration between European society, research institutions and policy. JPI Climate provides a platform where these objectives can be met.

Wilfried Kraus, Chair of the JPI Climate

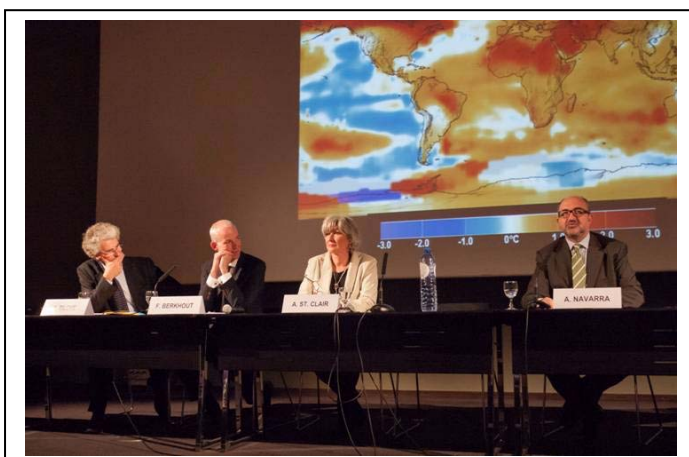


“JPI Climate aims to respond to the needs of policy, decision makers, business and European society at large for knowledge-based information and services to address climate change. It aims to close critical knowledge gaps by combining and connecting climate-related scientific approaches. This enables European society, through a systemic approach that considers the complexity of our social, economic and ecological systems, to cope with climate change and to take responsibility for reducing and avoiding the negative

consequences of climate change.”

(Source: <http://www.research-europe.com/index.php/2012/08/wilfried-kraus-chair-jpi-climate/>)

Special thanks to **Hartmut Schug**, photographer of the evening.



From left:

Andrea Tilche, EC - DG Research and Innovation, Unit for Climate Change and Natural Hazards

Frans Berkhout, Institute for Environmental Studies, Free University Amsterdam

Asuncion Lera St. Clair, CICERO, University of Oslo

Antonio Navarra, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Italy



From left:

Antonio Navarra, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Italy

Wilfried Kraus, Chair of the JPI Climate; German Ministry for Education and Research

Katherine Richardson, University of Copenhagen



Wilfried Kraus, Chair of JPI Climate

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action