

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Elective Course Open to the whole Faculty

Periods 2-4

Academic Year 2020/2021

Extracurricular Course

Syllabus



**CHANCE**

Jean Monnet Chair in EU  
Politics in a Changing Global  
Context (CHANCE)

## **EU International Relations and Climate Change**

How does the EU address Climate Change Challenges and Consequences in its  
Foreign Policy?



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## **A) Introduction**

Climate Change with all its consequences and policy-implications is at the top of the European Commission's agenda. The legally-binding goal of climate-neutrality by 2050, the European Green Deal and the 'build-back better and greener' approach of the EU Corona recovery package are some examples of the ambitious position Ursula von der Leyen's Commission (2019-2024) takes, while the 'Fridays for Future' movement mobilizes more and more followers in Europe and throughout the world.

In an interconnected, globalised world, the EU is affected by climate change consequences in other continents and tries to engage through its foreign policy, its trade policy, its development cooperation, through international organisations and in international climate negotiations. In this context, the EU incentivises Brazil to stop deforestation of the Amazon by making it a condition of the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement; introduces a continent-wide Emissions Trading System (EU ETS); supports the Sahel and the Horn of Africa with drought-resilience building to reduce climate-change displacement; and acts as an intermediary and facilitator of transboundary water arrangements in regions of water scarcity.

Furthermore, the EU participates actively in the yearly United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP) and ambitiously tries to reach multilateral agreements. Currently, the EU assists partner countries in the whole world to recover and reform the COVID-hit economies (through "Team Europe") to build back better and greener. 2021 will be a decisive year for climate change diplomacy as all signing parties of the Paris Agreement need to submit their updated 5-year nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) at the COP26 in Glasgow. Will the EU be able to reach internal consensus of EU Member States and build international alliances to step up climate action in the next 5-year period?

*Function of the course as an elective extra-curricular course*

This course reflects FASoS' research interests by being interdisciplinary and enabling a broader view and holistic approach to complex topics. Therefore, the course is open to all students of the faculty. No prior knowledge is required and discussions will be rich thanks to the different majors and disciplines of participating students.

Basic principles of natural science to understand aspects of climate change will be covered, as well as political science, development studies, economic arguments, etc. Therefore, there will be an openness to interdisciplinary thinking and discussion.

## **B) Intended learning outcomes**

In *EU International Relations and Climate Change*, you will learn how Climate Change Consequences (such as Sea Level Rise, Droughts and extreme weather events), as well as related phenomena (such as climate change-related migration and rising geopolitical interests over the melting Arctic) affect the EU and its member states and how Europe engages on the international scene with its foreign policy to address these multifaceted challenges.

After the completion of this course, you are able to:

1. Acquire **in-depth and specialist knowledge and understanding** of the EU as an international actor in the context of Climate Change diplomacy as well as the institutional policy responses towards Climate Change consequences;
2. Compare, select, integrate and apply the appropriate **theories, concepts and scientific points of views** from different disciplines (such as European Studies, development studies, political science, international relations, climate change science, migration studies, among others) to analyse new research puzzles and questions related to the EU as an international actor in climate change diplomacy **and to create broader, interdisciplinary and holistic opinions**;
3. Develop a **deeper understanding of the different NGOs and international organisations** involved in international climate change negotiations and policy-making
4. Critically **appraise standard arguments, assumptions, concepts, theories and methods** in the field of European Studies and Climate Change Studies, and particularly EU external relations, and to critically reflect on relevant cultural, social and ethical issues;
5. Contribute to **vivid discussions and an organised debate**;

## **C) Evaluation of the course**

### *Revisions and response to student's input*

The Faculty attaches great importance to your learning experience. Course evaluations by students are regarded as an important input which enables us to ensure the high quality of teaching and learning at FASoS. Student evaluations play a critical role in the work of programme directors and programme committees, which are tasked with the development of measures to improve the quality of teaching and which oversee the implementation of these measures.

Evaluating a course does matter: Many of your suggestions can already be implemented in the next course period. Moreover, a new generation of students will benefit from the results of your evaluation, just as you have benefited from changes implemented in response to last year's student evaluations.

You will also have the opportunity to give feedback to the coordinator before or after each tutorial/lecture. We will also organise an evaluation moment halfway through the course.

Since this is a new course, your feedback will be even more valuable.

## **D) Course Structure**

1. Introduction: The EU in International Climate Negotiations (02 February 2021)
2. Energy Transition in the EU and Beyond I: CO<sub>2</sub> and GHG Reduction (09 February 2021)
3. Energy Transitions in the EU and Beyond II: The Energy Union and the Green Deal (23 February 2021)
4. Droughts (02 March 2021)
5. Water Scarcity (09 March 2021)
6. Deforestation (16 March 2021)
7. Urbanisation, Slums and Megacities (23 March 2021)
8. Food Security (30 March 2021)
9. Antarctica and the Arctic (06 April 2021)
10. Sea Level Rise (13 April 2021)
11. Floods and extreme weather events (20 April 2021)
12. Climate Change Migration (04 May 2021)
13. Clean Oceans and Fishery (11 May 2021)
14. Biodiversity and Protection of Species (18 May 2021)

Sessions 1-3 give an overview about international climate change politics and the main instruments and ambitions of the EU.

Sessions 4-14 will speak about different climate change consequences or phenomena that contribute to climate change. All of those have in common that they pose transnational threats not only to the regions where they occur but also to other regions in the world. For example, sea level rise in Bangladesh may result in displacement to other countries or drought and food insecurity in Somalia may contribute to piracy which endangers maritime commerce.



## 1. Introduction: The EU in International Climate Negotiations (02 February 2021)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the main multilateral agreement in the context of global climate change politics. Since its entering into force in 1994, the Conference of the Parties (COPs) takes place every year, with the aim of minimizing the consequences of global warming. COP 3 in Kyoto, which resulted in the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and COP 21 in Paris, resulting in the Paris Agreement (2015) are two important examples of international climate change negotiations.

In this session, the ambitions, goals and negotiation performance of the EU in these climate change negotiations will be discussed.

Readings:

Bäckstrand, Karin and Ole Elgström (2013), The EU's Role in Climate Change Negotiations: From Leader to 'Leadiator', *Journal of European Public Policy* 20:10, 1369–86., [Full article: The EU's role in climate change negotiations: from leader to 'leadiator' \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

Oberthür, Sebastian and Lisanne Groen (2018), Explaining goal achievement in international negotiations: the EU and the Paris Agreement on climate change, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25:5, 708-727., [Full article: Explaining goal achievement in international negotiations: the EU and the Paris Agreement on climate change \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

Jørgensen, Knud Erik, Sebastian Oberthür & Jamal Shahin (2011), Introduction: Assessing the EU's Performance in International Institutions – Conceptual Framework and Core Findings, *Journal of European Integration*, 33:6, 599-620, [\(1\) \(PDF\) Introduction: Assessing the EU's Performance in International Institutions – Conceptual Framework and Core Findings \(researchgate.net\)](#)

## 2. Energy Transition in the EU and Beyond I: CO2 and GHG Reduction (09 February 2021)

In order to reach the emissions reduction targets of the Kyoto Protocol, the EU implemented its European Emissions Trading System (ETS). Being the largest ETS in the world, other countries and regions soon copied the EU ETS. In times of global supply chains, outsourcing, global carbon offsets, carbon leakage, the planes carbon border adjustment tax and ambitions to create a global Emissions Trading System are some important concepts in the context of climate change cooperation that will be discussed in this session.

### Readings:

Andreas Goldthau, Martin Keim and Kirsten Westphal, “The Geopolitics of Energy Transformation Governing the Shift: Transformation Dividends, Systemic Risks and New Uncertainties”, SWP, 2018, The Geopolitics of Energy Transformation. Governing the Shift: Transformation Dividends, Systemic Risks and New Uncertainties, [The geopolitics of energy transformation : governing the shift: transformation dividends, systemic risks and new uncertainties \(ssoar.info\)](https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/handle/document/5444)

Meadows, Damien., Peter Vis and Peter Zapfel (2019), The EU Emissions Trading System, in: Delbeke, Jos & Peter Vis (eds), Towards a Climate-Neutral Europe, chapter 4, pp. 66-94. (will be circulated by e-mail before the class)

Coady, David, Ian Parry, Louis Sears and Baoping Shang (2017), How large are global energy subsidies?, World Development, 91, March, 11-27. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2016.10.004>

### **3. Energy Transitions in the EU and Beyond II: The Energy Union and the Green Deal (23 February 2021)**

The climate in the EU and in other continents is changing. For Europe that will imply the following:

“Southern and central Europe are seeing more frequent heat waves, forest fires and droughts. The Mediterranean area is becoming drier, making it even more vulnerable to drought and wildfires. Northern Europe is getting significantly wetter, and winter floods could become common. Urban areas, where 4 out of 5 Europeans now live, are exposed to heat waves, flooding or rising sea levels, but are often ill-equipped for adapting to climate change.”<sup>1</sup>

Europe and the world are facing the challenge of reducing emissions while experiencing economic and demographic growth. For this goal an energy transition is needed. The EU Energy Union was launched in 2015 and aims at integrating the national electricity grids of EU MS into a European greener, more efficient and more secure energy net.

The EU Green Deal was presented in December 2019 and is arguably the core of Ursula von der Leyen’s Commission. Besides the overarching goals of climate neutrality by 2050, the comprehensive Green Deal contains policy proposals in many different fields.

In this session, the implications of the EU Energy Union and of the Green Deal for EU foreign policy and climate diplomacy will be discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: European Commission Website

Readings:

Delreux, Tom and Sander Happaerts (2016), *Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union*, London: Palgrave, pp. 12-42. [42345], [delreux and happaerts 2016 pp 12-42.pdf](#)

Vandendriessche, Marie, Angel Saz-Carranza & Jean-Michel Glachant (2017), *The Governance of the EU's Energy Union – Bridging the Gap?*, ESADE, Energy Analysis 1, [RSCAS 2017/51 The Governance of the EU's Energy Union: Bridging the Gap? \(eui.eu\)](#)

#### 4. Droughts (02 March 2021)

From this session on, we will speak about different climate change consequences or phenomena that contribute to climate change. All of those have in common that they pose transnational threats not only to the regions where they occur but also to other regions in the world. For example, sea level rise in Bangladesh may result in displacement to other countries or drought and food insecurity in Somalia may contribute to piracy which endangers maritime commerce.

With global warming, the frequency and intensity of droughts increases. In the coming decades, Africa will be most affected (IPCC, 2007). Drought is an aggravating factor of migration and conflict. While drought intensified clashes between farmers and pastoralists in the Sahel, other drought, such as in the Horn of Africa in the 1980s have resulted in immobility and “trapped populations”. (Black & Collyer, 2014).

The EU actively supports regions that suffer from drought with humanitarian aid and development cooperation (such as the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa).

Readings:

Adaawen, Stephen / Benjamin Schraven, The Current Column (2019), Bonn: German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), (The Current Column of 17 June 2019) The challenges of “drought migration” ([die-gdi.de](http://die-gdi.de))

Black, R and Collyer, M (2014), “Populations Trapped in times of crisis”, Forced Migration Review [Populations ‘trapped’ at times of crisis | Forced Migration Review](http://Populations%20trapped%20at%20times%20of%20crisis%20|%20Forced%20Migration%20Review) ([fmreview.org](http://fmreview.org))

## 5. Water Scarcity (09 March 2021)

Water Scarcity is connected with the previous topic (drought), as well as with changed rainfall patterns, demographic growth and human-made contamination. “Blue Wars”, and diplomatic tensions due to clashes over water resources at border regions will imply important challenges for the multilateral system in the next decades.

In this session, we discuss the EU’s positions and engagement towards water diplomacy around the world.

Readings:

Council of the European Union, Water Diplomacy - Council conclusions (19 November 2018), [st13991-en18.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Eliška Tomalová, “Water Diplomacy: New Ambition for the European Union, New Perspective on Science Diplomacy”, [5d0938d81926c.pdf \(ippapublicpolicy.org\)](#)

Molnar, Kata et al. “Preventing Conflicts, Fostering Cooperation – The many Roles of Water Diplomacy”, 2017, ICWC, [PUB Water-Diplomacy Bericht.pdf \(waterandchange.org\)](#)

## 6. Deforestation (16 March 2021)

Deforestation is not necessarily a climate change consequence but rather a contributor to climate change. Therefore, preserving and even expanding forests around the world is one of the key elements in climate change negotiations.

The EU includes reforestation conditions in its trade policy. In 2019, the negotiations of the EU-Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) Free Trade Agreement concluded. The EU included a condition for Brazil to stop deforestation of the Amazon and to respect the Paris Agreement (EU Mercosur Agreement Factsheet).

Readings:

Bager, Simon et al.: A broad EU deforestation approach can help protect climate and biodiversity (1) ([PDF](#)) [A broad EU deforestation approach can help protect climate and biodiversity \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Winners and losers from the proposed ban on palm oil (Eco Business article) › [ISCC System \(iscc-system.org\)](#)

## 7. Urbanisation, Slums and Megacities (23 March 2021)

Until 2050, the global urban population will double (European Commission). 70% of the world population will live in cities by the middle of the century (Müller, 2020). The extreme urbanization poses challenges for infrastructure, traffic, water supply, housing, jobs, waste management and residual water.

Poorly managed African and Asian megacities suffer from bad air quality – sometimes exceeding European air quality directives by 100 times (Müller, 2020). Demographic growth, globalisation but also climate change, all contribute to urbanisation. This is because rural areas are more vulnerable to climate change consequences, such as droughts and desertification. Therefore, megacities are both consequence and contributor (through high emissions) to climate change. Urban centres account for around 75% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use (UN Habitat website). This share will further increase in the future.

Furthermore, many megacities are in coastal areas, making them prone to sea level rise. Scholars of development studies underline the need to support the management and administration of megacities in developing countries (Nitschke et al., 2007).

Readings:

Gerd A. Folberth, Timothy M. Butler, William J. Collins, Steven T. Rumbold, Megacities and climate change – A brief overview, Environmental Pollution, Volume 203, 2015, Pages 235-242, [Megacities and climate change – A brief overview - ScienceDirect](#)

European Commission, 2010, “World and European Sustainable Cities, Insights from EU research”, [World and European Sustainable Cities, Insights from EU research ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform \(un.org\)](#)

UN Habitat, World Cities Report 2020: [World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization | UN-Habitat](#)

Video About European Trash In Accra, Ghana: [Europe's electronic waste ends up at this toxic landfill in Ghana | Euronews](#)



## 8. Food Security (30 March 2021)

The degradation of fertile soils, desertification, droughts, water scarcity and demographic growth often result in decreasing food security. The loss of livelihoods and the new difficulties for agriculture increases competition over land and resources. This could lead to conflict, migration and mass displacement.

Food insecurity can occur as a gradual process caused by slow on-set events such as desertification, or in a sudden way, triggered by extreme weather events, droughts or plague of locusts (as in Eastern Africa in 2020). The EU uses its humanitarian aid (under DG ECHO) for immediate support in times of crisis that affect food security and uses development cooperation to increase the resilience of regions to slow on-set events.

### Readings:

Bureau, Jean-Christophe & Swinnen, Johan: EU Policies and Global Food Security, (2017), FOODSECURE working paper no. 58, [58 Bureau Swinnen EU Policies and GFS \(1\).pdf](#)

Locust Plague BBC Article: [The Biblical locust plagues of 2020 - BBC Future](#)

EU Food Security Strategy: [EU Strategies related to "Food security and food crises" | Knowledge for policy \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 9. Antarctica and the Arctic (06 April 2021)

Due to climate change and global warming, the ice on the North and South Pole is melting. This makes it feasible and lucrative to exploit underlying gas and oil fields. Consequently, geopolitical tensions over exploitation rights and historic entitlements over the Arctics and Antarctica broke out.

Even though the EU has no 'Arctic borders', three of its Member States (Denmark, Sweden and Finland) are geographically close and active in the region. Hence, the EU claims the right to have a say in political negotiations over the Arctics – especially when it comes to respect high environmental standards (Luszczuk, 2011).

Regarding Antarctica, the political situation is clearer, thanks to the Antarctic Treaty (1977). However, the treaty does not take environmental considerations into account.

Readings:

Luszczuk, Michal "Climate Change in the Arctic And It's Geopolitical Consequence - The Analysis of the European Union Perspective", 2011, Papers on Global Change IGBP 18(1):93-100 [\(1\) \(PDF\) Climate Change in the Arctic And It's Geopolitical Consequence - The Analysis of the European Union Perspective \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Gautier D.L., Bird K.J., Charpentier R.R., Grantz A., Houseknecht D.W., Klett T.R., Moore T.E., Pitman J.K., Chenk Ch.J., Schuenemeyer J.H., Sřrensen K., Tennyson M.E., Valin Z.E., Wandrey C.J., 2009, Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and Gas in the Arctic, Science, 324, 1175–1179, [\(1\) \(PDF\) Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and Gas in the Arctic \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), 2005, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press., [Arctic: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment | AMAP](#)

Lisa Needham, "THE GEOPOLITICS OF ANTARCTICA", 2019, University of Melbourne, The geopolitics of Antarctica | [Pursuit by The University of Melbourne \(unimelb.edu.au\)](#)

## 10. Sea Level Rise (13 April 2021)

Sea level rise will affect low-lying countries first. Many small islands states – especially in the Pacific will disappear in the decades to come. These small islands states ally as AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States) in international climate negotiations, such as the COPs. Due to existential threat climate change and sea level rise means for them, they promote extremely ambitious climate change policies. For this reason, AOSIS frequently teams up with the European Union to increase climate action and convince more reluctant groups of states.

In Bangladesh alone, sea level rise is expected to displace approximately 20 million people by 2050. Sea level rise-induced migration will affect the EU as well.

EU MS, such as the Netherlands, are prone to sea level rise themselves and are considering to expand their coastal dykes as protection mechanisms.

Readings:

IPCC, “Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low-Lying Countries and Islands”, Chapter 4: Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low-Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities — [Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

Nowell-Enriquez, Jorge. “The Threats of Sea Level Rise: An Eco-Geopolitical Visual Analysis”, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, ["The Threats of Sea Level Rise: An Eco-Geopolitical Visual Analysis" by Jorge L. Nowell-Enriquez \(cuny.edu\)](#)

## 11. Floods and Extreme Weather Events (20 April 2021)

With climate change, extreme weather events and floods become more frequent and intense. Therefore, the years to come will bring “hotter heat waves, drier droughts, bigger storm surges and greater snowfall”.<sup>2</sup>

Floods and extreme weather become more dangerous if occurring jointly with drought. This is because drought reduces the assets and economic means of farmers in the rural areas. Consequently, they are even more vulnerable to floods (Adaawen & Schraven, 2019). In the last 30 years, droughts at the Horn of Africa have become more severe and more frequent, while rainfall has become more intense but concentrated in a shorter time span (Abshir, 2020). In many countries at the greater Horn of Africa, drought and flood crises are already inseparably linked (Joy & Mueller, 2014)

**Guest Lecturer:** Pablo Ferrández, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), tbc

Readings:

Denchak, Melissa. “Flooding and Climate Change: Everything you need to know”, Natural Resources Defence Council, 2019, [Flooding and Climate Change: Everything You Need to Know | NRDC](#)

European Commission Emergency Assistance for Floods in East Africa (2020): [Floods in East Africa: EU provides initial emergency assistance | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Interactive Map:** [Mapped: How climate change affects extreme weather around the world \(carbonbrief.org\)](#)

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<sup>2</sup> [Extreme weather gets a boost from climate change | Environmental Defense Fund \(edf.org\)](#)

## 12. Climate Change Migration (04 May 2021)

Climate Change Migration is a phenomenon of increasing importance. The last years have shown a certain polemic regarding the relation between climate change and migration. Some international organisations and scientists saw a proportional relation between climate change and international refugees and forecasted large numbers of migrants coming to Europe and Northern America. According to a study by the United Nations University, there would be over 200 million environmental migrants by 2050 (Kamal, 2017). Kurt Campbell sees Europe as one of the three regions, which would suffer enormous tensions and potential conflict due to increased migration induced by climate change.

In the last decade however, the majority of researchers contradicted this proportional relation and highlighted the necessity of a more differentiated study of the climate change-migration nexus. This nexus refers to the relation between the two topics – climate change and migration – and to how the former influences the latter. Foresight 2011, Zickgraf 2019, Schraven 2013, Black 2001, Van der Geest 2009 and Knoll 2013 negate a proportional relation between climate change and migration to the EU and Northern America. A huge majority of environmentally-induced migrants remain within the borders of their home country (Schraven, 2013). Furthermore, some climate change consequences, such as drought, also have the capability to reduce migration and cause immobility by diminishing households' financial resources required to move (Black, 2001 & Van der Geest, 2009). In 2011, Foresight warned that “in the decades ahead, millions of people will be unable to move away from locations in which they are extremely vulnerable to environmental change.”<sup>3</sup> In this sense, both moving and staying are unintentional drought-caused mobility outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> LIVEN, I. “Trapped Populations – Hostages of Climate Change”, *Inter Press Service*, 2014, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/11/trapped-populations-hostages-of-climate-change-2/>

**Activity:** Organised Debate (British Parliament Style), in collaboration with Rhetorica Maastricht Debating Society, tbc

Readings:

Hunter, L; Luna, J and Norton, R “Environmental Dimensions of Migration”, 2015, Annual Review of Sociology Vol. 41:377-397, [Environmental Dimensions of Migration | Annual Review of Sociology \(annualreviews.org\)](#)

Zickgraf, Caroline, ECDPM Great Insights magazine, Autumn 2019 (Volume 8, Issue 4), [Human mobility and climate change: Migration and displacement in a warming world - ECDPM](#)

Podcast: [One Billion Climate Migrants? Not So Fast \(podbean.com\)](#)

Tedx Talk: [\(1\) For Climate Change and Migration, Youth Have the Answers! | Julia Blocher | TEDxLUISS - YouTube](#)

### 13. Clean Oceans and Fishery (11 May 2021)

Contamination of the oceans injures and kills marine species, global warming triggers acidification of the oceans which, contribute to the extinction of coral reefs and marine vegetation. Overfishing reduces fish populations, decreasing future food security. More than 8 million tons of plastic land in the oceans every year (IUCN, 2018).

How can the EU contribute to protecting fish stocks and conserving marine systems? Among others through fishery agreements with partner countries and by banning disposable, single-use plastic (such as plastic plates, cutlery and straws). Is this enough?

Readings:

Zimmermann, H. (2017). Balancing sustainability and commerce in international negotiation: the EU and its fisheries partnership agreements, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 24 (1), 135-155., [Full article: Balancing sustainability and commerce in international negotiation: the EU and its fisheries partnership agreements \(tandfonline.com\)](https://doi.org/10.1080/09646560.2017.135155)

Charles Galdies et al., “European policies and legislation targeting ocean acidification in european waters - Current state”, *Marine Policy*, Volume 118, 2020, 103947, ISSN 0308-597X, [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X19309054](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X19309054)

IUCN – Marine Plastics Policy Brief, 2018, [Marine plastics | IUCN](https://www.iucn.org/press-releases/marine-plastics-policy-brief)

## 14. Biodiversity and Protection of Species (18 May 2021)

Deforestation, contamination of the oceans, global warming and sea level rise: all these phenomena endanger biodiversity. Biodiversity becomes increasingly political (Anderson, 2019) and the EU created its biodiversity strategy 2030.

Half of the global GDP depends on nature (EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030) and climate activists refer to our human responsibility to preserve species for future generations.

Readings:

[EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Biodiversity loss has finally got political – and this means new thinking on the left and the right \(theconversation.com\)](#)

Video: [\(1\) Severn Cullis-Suzuki at Rio Summit 1992 - YouTube](#)



## **About the Jean Monnet Chair**

The Jean Monnet Chair in EU Politics in a Changing Global Context (CHANCE) is held by Dr. Giselle Bosse. The Chair aims to contribute to broadening the focus of European Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) by expanding course content and research lines dealing with the challenges and chances for the EU in a changing global context. Challenges include significant shifts in the global order and rising great powers, which defy established principles of liberal international order; new security threats such as hybrid and cyber warfare; climate change and major global technological change and innovation.

During the past decade, the changing global context has had a profound impact on all areas of EU international relations, which underlines the high relevance of integrating a global perspective in EU studies curricula and research. Moreover, the Covid-19 crisis has had economic, social, political and geopolitical consequences that will inevitably affect key aspects of EU international role, such as its relations with major powers, as well as several aspects of humanitarian aid, development and peacekeeping, and the fight against disinformation and cyber-attacks.

In this context, CHANCE aims to contribute to:

- strengthening research and teaching in the field of EU international relations at FASoS;
- consolidating and further developing research and teaching on the impact of a changing global context on EU politics and policies;
- supporting students and young scholars building their careers;
- increasing the visibility and relevance of FASoS research and teaching to academic and non-academic stakeholders at local, regional and national levels.

## About Course Lecturer Niklas Mayer



Niklas Mayer designed and teaches the extracurricular course “EU International Relations and Climate Change”. He is research assistant to Dr. Giselle Bosse’s Jean Monnet Chair ‘Chance’. Niklas’ PhD research revolves around the impact of resilience-building projects on migration decisions in drought-affected areas. Prior to that, he obtained a Master’s degree in European Studies from the College of Europe and a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the Autonomous University of Madrid. He gained working experience in internships at the European Commission, the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the German Chamber of Commerce in Brazil, and the European Parliament.

## About JM Chair Dr. Giselle Bosse



Dr Giselle Bosse is Associate Professor in EU External Relations, Jean Monnet Chair and Vice Dean Education at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University.

Her research focuses on EU policies in the post-Soviet area, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership, with a particular emphasis on the promotion and implementation of human rights norms, democracy and the rule of law. Her work also examines the influence of non-state actors on EU foreign policy, and the legitimacy of EU sanction regimes and military missions through the lenses of critical theory.

She was awarded a VENI Research Grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for her project on: 'Explaining Europe's failure to deal with autocratic regimes: Which actors make and break effective democracy promotion?' (2013-2016), an NWO ASPASIA Research Grant for her project on: 'Sending European citizens to the battlefield: Who decides on EU Security and Defence Operations?' (2018-2022) and an NWO grant for Refugee Scientist fellowships (HESTIA) in 2019. In 2020, she was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in EU Politics in a Changing Global Context (CHANCE).