



Faculté de
Philosophie et
Sciences sociales

REPI
RECHERCHE ET ÉTUDES EN
POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE



2026: A Decisive Year for the Global Fossil Fuel Phase-Out?

Exploring the Geopolitical, Financial,
and Legal Challenges Ahead

20 March 2026

Fondation Universitaire – Universitaire Stichting
Rue d'Egmontstraat 11, 1000 Brussels

With the support of the Helios Foundation

The global phase-out of fossil fuels has emerged as a central – yet deeply contested – pillar of international climate action. Beyond its technical dimensions, it raises far-reaching geopolitical, financial, and legal questions. This one-day workshop aims to provide an interdisciplinary space for dialogue among policymakers, academics, and civil society representatives to explore these questions. Conceived as a preparatory discussion ahead of the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, to be held in Santa Marta (Colombia) in April 2026, the workshop seeks to foster early exchanges and inform policy debates in the run-up to this landmark meeting.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/e/8A9DUDFtfU>

Please note that due to capacity constraints your registration is subject to confirmation.

9:00 – Doors open

9:15 - 9:30 – Words of welcome

Romain Weikmans, Associate Professor of International Politics and Climate Change, ULB

Luc Lallemand, Managing Director, Helios Foundation

9:30 - 11:00 – Introductory session

A Fossil Fuel Treaty to manage a global just transition away from coal, oil and gas

Alexandre Naulot, European Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative

Coalitions of the willing in global environmental governance: A negotiation-theoretic perspective

Hayley Walker, Associate Professor of International Negotiation, IÉSEG School of Management

The politics of supply-side approaches to a fossil fuel phase-out

Lukas Slothuus, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Sussex



Faculté de
Philosophie et
Sciences sociales



11:00 - 11:30 – Coffee break

11:30 - 12:30 – Session 1. The geopolitics of decarbonization: All eyes on Europe

Strategic options to manage Europe's fossil fuel exit

Thijs Van de Graaf, Associate Professor of International Politics, Ghent University

The EU strategy on fossil phase-out, energy security and international competitiveness

Brendan Devlin, Advisor (Methane, Transition away from Fossil Fuels and International Just Transition), DG Energy, European Commission & Associate, Oxford Net Zero, Oxford University

12:30 - 13:45 – Lunch

13:45 - 14:45 – Session 2. Fossil dependence and decarbonization leadership in the Global South

Political economies of energy transition in the Global South: China's influence and institutional constraints

Yixian Sun, Associate Professor in International Development, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, University of Bath

Decarbonisation under constraint: Fossil fuel exports and debt in the Global South

Bertha Iris Argueta Tejeda, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Eurodad

14:45 - 15:15 – Coffee break

15:15 - 16:15 – Session 3. La bataille juridique autour de la sortie des énergies fossiles (en français)

Le rôle du contentieux dans la sortie des énergies fossiles

Anne Stevignon, Juriste chargée de contentieux à *Notre Affaire à Tous*, docteure en droit, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Le droit international : verrou ou levier de la défossilisation des économies ?

Sabrina Robert, Professeure de droit international, Nantes Université

16:15 - 17h15 – Discours de clôture (en français)

Jean-Luc Crucke, Ministre fédéral belge de la Mobilité, du Climat et de la Transition environnementale, chargé du Développement durable

Romain Weikmans, Chargé de cours en relations internationales, ULB

Matthias Petel, Chercheur postdoctoral, ULB