

## **Abstract**

The European Union (EU) began developing climate policy in the 1990s. This has since been pursued by means of a broad range of mitigation policy measures, less significant adaptation ones and general a diversified scope of governance tools, which comprehend more conspicuously legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measures addressing emissions trading, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. In 2019, the European Commission adopted the European Green Deal (EGD), an overarching policy framework to pursue decarbonisation and achieve the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The EGD aspired to elevate EU climate policy and governance to new heights and operate a departure from past patterns of EU climate governance, signify more than incremental policy development. In this talk, aimed at taking stock of the past but also looking prospectively ahead, we argue that the EU climate policy has been pursuing several past patterns, but nevertheless also starting to evidence breaks from other established policy and governance trends. The European Climate Law epitomises this trend. There remain however certain tensions and challenges — e.g., regarding speed, coherence, effectiveness and just transition—that underpin apprehensions on the immediate future of the EU's climate policy and governance, and the EU's ability to implement its climate ambition and policy goals.

## **Keywords**

*Climate change; Climate Law; Climate policy; Climate neutrality; Decarbonisation; Energy; European Green Deal; European Union; Governance; Policy instruments .*