



The Hellenic Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage is hosting a side-event at the Greek Pavilion at COP28, in Dubai, with the participation of the three leading European universities (National Technical University of Athens, Imperial College London, and University College London), in the context of the Horizon Europe IAM COMPACT and DIAMOND research projects.

### **COP28: Bridging the gap between the ‘Fit for 55’ package and the 2050 ambition of a net-zero EU economy in Dubai (December 5, 2023)**

#### **1. Event Details:**

- Title: “Bridging the gap between the ‘Fit for 55’ package and the 2050 ambition of a net-zero EU economy”
- Date: December 5, 15.00-16.00 GMT+4 (UAE time)
- Duration: 45’
- Venue: In-person at the Greek Pavilion – COP28
- Speaking Slot: Panel discussion

#### **2. Purpose of the Event:**

The EU has committed to becoming a net-zero economy by 2050, with many member states having integrated this goal into national strategies. The bloc’s path towards delivering on this ambition, however, remains unclear. Drawing on the findings of a landmark study produced in the context of two European research and innovation projects, a panel discussion will take a scientific aim at the challenges ahead. The discussion will first explore the feasibility of key aspects of the Fit for 55 policy package and question the energy-system requirements to reaching net zero by 2050, across sectors and member states. Special attention will be given to strategic decisions that the EU must make today, especially relating to technological investments and associated enabling environments, as well as to key intermediate milestones on the way to net zero. In turn, the panel discussion will also dive deeper into the role of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in abating residual fossil fuels as well as into that of natural gas, notably in the light of the energy crisis in Europe.



### 3. Key Objectives:

- a. Highlight potential challenges to the EU's path to net zero: The event will attempt to shed light onto the key challenges that the bloc may face along its way to delivering on its long-term ambition of establishing a net-zero economy by 2050 and discuss the strategic choices it will soon have to make, from a technological and sectoral perspective.
- b. Fuel the policy debate on critical technologies: Along these lines, the panel discussion is also intended to place significant focus on contested—albeit critical—technologies that are expected to play considerable role in the required transformations to the European energy system. In this direction, the discussion will primarily revolve around carbon capture and storage and natural gas, especially in the context of the recent energy crisis that has shaped a challenging international energy landscape, contributed to a polycrisis, and fueled heated policy debates.
- c. Share Knowledge: The dissemination and hopefully exploitation of the latest scientific evidence on the issue of deep decarbonisation in the EU, arising from leading research projects, will be sought, while sharing knowledge and expertise among international experts, policymakers, and stakeholders will be facilitated.

### 4. Agenda:

**Panel discussion** (moderated by Prof. Ryna Yiyun Cui, *University of Maryland, US*)

- **“Paving the way to net zero in the EU: key technologies, strategic decisions, and a roadmap”**  
Speaker: Haris Doukas, *Professor at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), President of the Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELLET) Energy Council, Mayor-Elect of the Municipality of Athens, Greece.*
- **“Defining ‘Abated Fossil Fuels’ and identifying their role in the EU’s long-term ambition”**  
Speaker: Alaa Al Khourdajie, *Research Fellow at the Department of Chemical Engineering of Imperial College London (Imperial)*
- **“The role of gas in the EU’s net-zero trajectory: thinking in the context of the energy crisis”**  
Speaker: Steve Pye, *Assoc. Professor at the UCL Energy Institute (University College London)*