21 September 2016
Workshop- Energy and Climate Collaboration in Europe: Ways Forward
Location: French Embassy Kensington Gardens

Concept note:

The energy trilemma – delivering secure, clean and affordable energy - is a goal shared across European (and other) countries. The Paris Agreement set ambitious global goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the EU submission confirmed its commitment to reduce emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030; the UK government has now legislated its fifth carbon budget, with reduction 57% on similar timescale (2028-2032).

Energy and climate change policies benefit from international cooperation and trade for multiple reasons. Each EU countries benefits from trade in energy and cooperation on elements of policy, whilst retaining overall sovereignty over its energy mix. Concerns about competitiveness, amongst other reasons, motivate big benefits from coordination of carbon pricing, in the form of the EU ETS, but the EU ETS is recognised now to be inadequate in its current form, whilst effective reform (particularly for investment incentives) is hard to secure.

Under the Energy Union, cooperation is expected to grow further. In the UK too, trade in electricity is expanding rapidly with growing interconnection, whilst domestic gas (as well as oil) production from the North Sea is declining. The UK Referendum outcome has however thrown question marks over the trend and the nature of future interdependence. At the same one, one key UK initiative – the carbon floor price – has now been joined by the French government, which has gone on to propose structural reform of the EU ETS to provide a price corridor.

This workshop will example the intersection of national energy strategies in North-West Europe with cooperation across borders, with a particular focus on carbon pricing and sectoral strategies.

The workshop is organised by the UCL Energy Institute, in collaboration with the French Embassy and with support from the UCL Institute of Sustainable Resources, Climate Strategies and I4CE. This is the third in a series of three events organised jointly by UCL Energy Institute and the French Embassy, under the auspices of the long-established relationship between the French Embassy’s Science and Technology Department and UCL’s Grand Challenges programme, held termly through the 2015-16 academic year.