

Summary

Side event at COP24: Towards a <2°-economy - enabling businesses to act as pioneers in climate protection

At the beginning of the side event at the #PandaHub at COP24 in Poland, the project “Towards <2°-economy” was presented by Alexander Liedke (WWF Germany). The presentation showed how businesses can collaborate and use climate action as a business opportunity and take joint action. 8 concrete emission-reducing project ideas, 1 spin off project as well as a study on the feasibility for transition pathways for German industry were presented and discussed with an international audience, i.e. the question in how far the approach could be transferred to other countries.

The discussion input was followed by a panel discussion with Katarzyna Dulko-Gaszyna (Sustainability Manager / IKEA Poland), Dr. Urs Ruth (Chief Expert Energy & Climate Change, Future Research and Technology Strategy / Robert Bosch GmbH) and Dr. Hans-Jörn Weddige (Group Coordinator Energy, Climate and Environment Policies / thyssenkrupp AG). The discussion was moderated by Martin Kaul (Foundation 2°).

Not only in the project „Towards a <2°-economy” but also in the discussion, a vision for 2050 was the starting point: The discussion showed that the necessary time frame depends on the business, as for some it may be more meaningful to focus on 2020 and 2030, whereas e.g. plants built today will still be active in 2050. Value chains need to have net zero emissions in 2050. What now clearly needs to follow goals is execution. Some companies are far already: IKEA in Poland, for example, is already climate positive and produces more renewable energy than they use – while being the second biggest production country for IKEA globally. With regards to mobility, the conversation developed within the last year to a more holistic approach. A discussion of environmental protection competing with well-being and economic success is long over.

The transformation of the economy is a challenge that needs all potential to be tapped, so collaboration is crucial, e.g. by engaging with the supply chain but also with existing technologies and by working together with the scientific community. Most technologies are there. Checking how climate target setting can be aligned with the Paris Agreement – in practice with setting a science based target – was mentioned. Explaining the science behind it can be the argument to also convince the C-Level. The discussion should also learn from what has not worked well and respect cultural differences. Talanoa dialogues are a positive example to go beyond blaming responsibilities. The importance of trust and the ability to show good examples was underlined.

The discussion clearly showed: the economy will play a decisive role in implementing the Paris Agreement and to reach the climate goals. In order to develop a low-carbon economy, it will be necessary that all sectors contribute and all potentials will be tapped.

You can download the [presentation](#) and the [concept note](#) of the event. Please also feel free to take a look at [photos](#) of the side event (Copyright: WWF Deutschland).