

REPORT

Regional Climate Talks: Impacts of climate change in the Czech Republic: what can we do?

Wednesday 23 October 2019, 17:00-18:30
Skaut institute in Olomouc, Dolní náměstí 27/38, Olomouc

- **On 23rd October we organised the eleventh debate from the Climate Talks cycle. The topics was „Impacts of climate change in the Czech Republic: what can we do?“.**
- **The speakers were: Radim Tolasz (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute), Romana Březovská (Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic) and Tomáš Obšíváč (Extinction Rebellion Czech Republic).**
- **The project is organised by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Stiftung Prague and the UN Information Centre in Prague.**

Radm Tolasz began the discussion by introducing the physical laws of the Earth's climate system. He noted that the climate system needs to be analysed as a whole and not only in parts. He also explained how the greenhouse effect works and how human activity over the past 200 years has contributed to the rise in average temperature, which is now rising at an ever-increasing rate. According to Tolasz, we have two options, which need to go hand in hand. Firstly, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that we emit into the atmosphere, and secondly, to take better of our natural environment, because a healthy nature can capture more carbon emissions.

Romana Březovská then spoke about the topic of adaptation to climate change. She mentioned the activities and strategies that are already under way at global, European and national levels. Furthermore, there are activities happening at municipal level, for instance those that have signed the Covenant of Mayors. According to Březovská, the essential part of successful adaptation measures is the way we cultivate the land and how is the nature subsequently able to react to climate change.

Tomáš Obšíváč then reminded the audience that climate crisis is happening here and now and it is no longer just a threat in the distant future. The Czech Republic is even heating up faster than the global average. This can be

seen for example on dams, which are drying up, or trees that are dying because of the changing climate conditions. We are also facing the risk of shortages of certain crops. In addition, a major extinction of animal species is under way – in Germany, for instance, 3/4 of all insects have gone extinct over the past 30 years. According to Obšíváč, it is crucial to not only reduce our emissions, but also to improve our care for the nature in order to stop the ecological crisis.

Afterwards, a discussion with the audience ensued. Topics discussed included the (in)sufficiency of Czech climate policy targets and their fulfilment, decentralization of the energy system or the impacts of the bark beetle calamity on the ability of Czech forests to capture carbon in the future.