



## Akkoord van Parijs 10 jaar

**An afternoon about 10 years The Paris Agreement presents a dilemma: do you strike a positive tone, emphasising what has been achieved? Or do you focus on the missed temperature target, the enormous task ahead? Six knowledge institutions that advise the government on climate policy have joined forces to take stock on the day the Paris Agreement celebrates its tenth anniversary. There is hope because of all that has been achieved and the possibilities that still lie ahead. Hope is needed to keep our spirits up and prevent worse things from happening. But it is also good to face up to our shortcomings and realise what is holding us back.**

### The past 10 years of climate policy

12 December marked exactly ten years since the Paris Agreement was concluded. 195 countries agreed to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and to strive for no more than 1.5 degrees. It was a milestone that set climate policy in motion worldwide. Reason enough for Deltares, Rli, NKP, KIN, KNMI and WKR to organise an afternoon with people who were there at the time, with policymakers who shaped climate policy, and with professionals who work on its implementation on a daily basis. What went well, what could be improved and what does the future look like?

### Transition period

The transition is in full swing. Recent years have brought good news: growth in renewable energy, companies profiting from solutions, awareness of climate change, support for climate policy, and the predicted 4 degrees Celsius rise has been revised down to 2.6 degrees. Never before have we known so much about what we need to do and what is possible.

We have now reached a difficult phase in the transition: we have picked the 'low-hanging fruit'. Geopolitical developments have given rise to other concerns, while the climate is changing at an ever-increasing pace. In a time of transition, you need a government that 'invests in the future': it is not only important to think ahead, but we will also have to *take* action without seeing any immediate results, or even having any certainty that it will work. Three things can help: science, practice and money.

### Knowledge provides control

The climate is changing faster than previously assumed. This requires greater adaptation and knowledge. Knowledge offers opportunities, because it allows you to shape the future rather than simply react to it. At the same time, the past ten years have also revealed the limits of adaptation: damage can no longer be prevented.

In terms of mitigation, the figures show that 'Paris' has accelerated progress. The pace of emission reductions in the Netherlands has increased since 2015. The challenge lies in maintaining that pace. Knowledge about what is needed to accelerate systemic change has increased, but is still only being applied sparingly.

## In practice, you find the frontrunners

The message from Paris was actually a welcome to the new economy. China is seizing the opportunities this presents; Europe needs to catch up. The small groups of pioneers who have been working on the transitions since the 1970s have grown into a huge legion that is active in all areas of society. You find this mass in practice, in neighbourhoods, local initiatives, villages and towns where people work together to improve the quality of their living conditions and combat climate change. If you let them speak, so much more can be achieved.

## Money: doing nothing or too little always costs more

It is sometimes said that financial institutions exhibit herd behaviour: if one goes, the others follow. This can be a good thing, especially for financing mitigation measures. Redirecting cash flows requires a different budgetary system and an end to fossil fuel subsidies. Adaptation poses a greater challenge for governments: it 'simply' requires a lot of public money in coordination with banks, insurers and citizens. Should we wait for a 'Minsky moment' (a global financial crisis triggered by a major 'climate event')? Or are we smart enough not to wait for disaster to strike?

## Discussion: how do we move forward?

In the discussion about what we need to move forward, one crucial element emerges: the answer to the question of what kind of society we want to be.

We are approaching the moment when we will really start to feel the effects of systemic change: consistent choices, reduction and redistribution are inevitable. What is needed to achieve this: revenue models of the future (possibly based more on social value than on monetary value), more chain deals (also with a view to production and consumption), fairness and clarity. But also adapting our behaviour and the choices that go with it, as successfully proposed by the Citizens' Assembly. The uncertainty of the climate is pressing, but the uncertainty caused by vacillating policy is possibly even more disastrous. The government, the business community and citizens must shape this new society and new economy together. Transparency is needed about which activities will be achieved by 2050 and which will not. To this end, we must look not only at energy, buildings and mobility, but also at the demand side. Clear targets for residual emissions in agriculture are also needed, as well as a long-term perspective for farmers.

## Speakers

Speakers included Sophie Hermans, Minister for Climate and Green Growth; Bart van den Hurk (Deltares and IPCC, on tipping points and climate adaptation); Jaco Stremler (PBL, on reducing greenhouse gas emissions); and Heleen de Coninck (WKR, on climate finance). Heleen Ekker (climate specialist at RTL) spoke with Chantal Zeegers (Alderman for Sustainability in Rotterdam), Ralien Bekkers (Ministry of Finance) and Kees Vendrik (NKP). This was followed by a debate with Marjolein Demmers (NatuurhMilieu), Nienke Homan (VNCI), Derk Loorbach (KIN) and Merel Straathof (NAJK). Maarten van Aalst (KNMI) concluded the afternoon, which was moderated by Marnix Kluiters (Rli and podcast Ecosofie).