MARCH-APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY LABORATORY

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Editorial

We welcome you to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter.

We would like to thank Miltiadis Nistas for coordinating this project and the rest Laboratory members, namely, Ifigeneia Krousti, Stamatia Leontara, Evangelia Karatsoli, Labrini Zisi, Dawid Fusiek and Christos Mavrogiannis for their contribution.

We urge you to take a look at our newsletter and keep in touch with the latest developments!

Stavros Karagiannakis

ELECTRICITY

Greece's PPC says Chinese firms interested in coal-fired plants sale

Several Chinese firms have expressed interest in acquiring coal-fired plants Greece's power utility Public Power Corp. (PPC) will divest to comply with an EU court ruling, the company's chief executive said. Athens has agreed with its foreign creditors that PPC, which is 51 percent state-owned, will sell plants equal to about 40 percent of its capacity after a European court ruled the utility had abused its dominant position in the coal market.

https://goo.gl/JSuipu

ACER publishes guidance on capacity hoarding in intraday electricity markets that could constitute market manipulation

With the aim of ensuring the integrity of valuable EU cross-border trading capacities, ACER publishes today a guidance note on capacity hoarding in intraday electricity markets that could constitute market manipulation under REMIT (EU Regulation on Wholesale Market Integrity and Transparency). Capacity hoarding consists of the acquisition of available transmission capacity without using it or without using it effectively.

https://goo.gl/qMMCVw

Key Electricity Trends 2017

OECD net electricity production grew by 0.8% compared to 2016 according to IEA monthly data

https://goo.gl/8AdHrT

The Year of Electricity at the IEA

The role of electricity in our economies and societies is growing rapidly. The power sector is becoming a critical actor in the global energy system – with implications for all fuels, including renewables, natural gas, coal and nuclear, as well as most energy technologies. The electricity sector now attracts more investment than oil and gas combined – a new milestone in the history of the energy sector. Global electricity demand doubled between 1990 and 2016, outpacing other fuels, and is set to grow at twice the pace of energy demand as a whole in the next 25 years.

For these reasons, 2018 will be the year of electricity at the International Energy Agency.

https://goo.gl/nq5SHM

Antitrust: Commission approves Greek measures to ensure fair access to lignite-fired electricity generation for PPC's competitors

The European Commission has made legally binding under EU antitrust rules the measures submitted by Greece to ensure fair access to lignite-fired power generation for the competitors of Public Power Corporation (PPC), the incumbent electricity operator. The measures are also in line with the EU's climate and energy objectives.

https://goo.gl/xGJZ46

RENEWABLES

Renewable Capacity Statistics 2018

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) produces comprehensive renewable

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energy statistics on a range of topics. This publication presents renewable power generation capacity statistics for the last decade (2008-2017) in trilingual tables.

https://goo.gl/mFhqoP

IRENA Welcomes Establishment of International Solar Alliance

Onn the occasion of the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, and the Interim Director General of ISA, Mr. Upendra Tripathy signed a Joint Declaration to deepen the cooperation between the two organizations to accelerate solar energy deployment.

https://goo.gl/2jmHWF

Global goals on energy access, renewables and efficiency will not be met without accelerated ambition

The world is not on track to achieving energyrelated Sustainable Development Goals, according to a new series of Policy Briefs launched today at the United Nations. Supported by data and analysis from the International Energy Agency, this series of 27 Policy Briefs provides the latest assessment of where the world stands on goals for universal energy access and increasing renewables and energy efficiency. The Policy Briefs also chart the crucial interlinkages between energy and other development objectives, and outline what needs to be done to scale up and accelerate policies, innovation, finance and capacity-building between now and 2030.

https://goo.gl/S6wQz1

Global Renewable Generation Continues its Strong Growth, New IRENA Capacity Data Shows

By the end of 2017, global renewable generation capacity increased by 167 GW and reached 2,179 GW worldwide. This represents a yearly growth of around 8.3%, the average for seven straight years in a row, according to new data released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Renewable Capacity Statistics 2018 is the most comprehensive, up-to-date and accessible figures on renewable energy capacity statistics. It contains nearly 15,000 data points from more than 200 countries and territories.

https://goo.gl/z74khZ

New Geopolitics: Commission on the Global Consequences of Renewable Energy Transformation

Global leaders from across the spheres of energy, foreign policy, trade, development and business have been announced as members of the newly formed Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation. The Commission was launched in January during the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and its work is supported by the governments of Germany, Norway and the United Arab Emirates.

https://goo.gl/dT9PEs

Solar Power Investment Outstripped Coal, Gas And Nuclear Combined In 2017

More money was invested in solar power in 2017 than in coal, gas and nuclear power combined, according to a new report for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The report says that global investment in solar rose 18% to \$160.8 billion, driven by the Chinese market, which was responsible for more than half of the world's 98GW of new solar capacity.

https://goo.gl/ALtqa8

Asia leads the charge in growth of renewable energy

In 2017, Asia accounted for nearly two-thirds of the worldwide increase in renewable energy generating capacity, according to a report UNIVERSITY OF PIREAUS



published in April by the International Renewable Energy Agency.

https://goo.gl/ngQnua

Greece Kicks Off \$3.6 Billion Program for Solar, Wind Projects

Greece is preparing to auction 2.6 gigawatts of solar and wind projects to attract investment and beef up the Mediterranean country's cleanenergy credentials.

https://goo.gl/q4FYH6

OIL

Outstanding performance by participating OPECnon-OPEC countries leads to highest ever conformity level

Participating OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries have set a new record in February with their voluntary production adjustments, achieving a level of 138%, according to the OPEC-non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC).

https://goo.gl/fwiQ8m

Nigeria now world's largest petrol importer

Nigeria is the only member country in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that imports petrol and is currently the largest importer of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) in the world. The country had reached such import level because the refineries had not worked to their maximum capacity.

https://goo.gl/1TkwHz

Exxon, Total, Repsol and Hellenic Petroleum bidders for oil exploration off Greece

Oil majors Exxon Mobil, Total and Repsol are among members of two consortia that have submitted bids to explore for oil and gas off Greece. Greece's oil and gas resources management company (HHRM) said that Exxon and Total, each with 40 percent stakes, and Hellenic Petroleum had jointly bid to explore off Crete, while Spain's Repsol and Hellenic Petroleum had submitted a joint bid for a block in the Ionian Sea. Greece launched the tenders last year after expressions of interest by the Exxon-led consortium for the two sites off Crete and by Greece's Energean for the Ionian block, although Energean has since withdrawn. HHRM said it would quickly evaluate the offers, while the final approval lies with the Energy Ministry.

https://goo.gl/GLVm44

IEA sees U.S. oil output surge stealing OPEC share in next five years

According to the International Energy Agency, U.S. shale oil output is set to surge over the next five years, stealing market share from OPEC producers and moving the United States, once the world's top oil importer, closer to selfsufficiency.

https://goo.gl/Z2FXN2

Libya Boosts Oil Exports to Europe and The U.S.

According to the International Energy Agency, Libya has managed to sustain its oil production at around 1 million bpd over the past couple of months and is boosting its oil exports to Europe and the United States. Libya is also closing in on Saudi Arabia, which is currently Europe's thirdbiggest seaborne oil supplier after Iraq and Russia and anaged to increase its oil shipments to the U.S. Lastly, Libya also achieved to increase exports to China.

https://goo.gl/mpLfF6

Global Trading Giants Dip Toes in China Oil Futures on Debut Day

In a first for Chinese commodities, the futures are open to foreign participation, which is seen as critical for the long-term success of the contract. The world's biggest oil buyer wants to challenge the dominance of Brent and New

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York's West Texas Intermediate as global benchmarks and promote the use of the yuan in international trade, a key goal for Asia's biggest economy.

https://goo.gl/kZU83X

China Is About to Shake Up the Oil Futures Market

The world's biggest oil buyer is offering yuandenominated futures that foreigners can buy and sell -- a first in Chinese commodities. Among the most intriguing questions is whether the traditional benchmarks of Brent crude in London and West Texas Intermediate in New York will face a serious challenger. Here are some of the other key questions.

https://goo.gl/qvoUvJ

Total Closes the Maersk Oil Acquisition and Becomes the Second-Largest Operator in the North Sea

Paris - Total announces the closing of the Maersk Oil acquisition signed on 21st of August 2017. It brings to Total around 1 billion barrels of oil equivalent of 2P/2C reserves and resources, mainly in the OECD countries, and a production of about 160,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) in 2018, ramping up to more than 200,000 boe/d by the early 2020s.

https://goo.gl/LacaiJ

Participating OPEC-non-OPEC Countries Achieve Highest Ever Conformity Level

The OPEC/Non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) convened in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for its eighth meeting, on 20 April 2018. It announced that, based on the Report of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) for the month of March 2018, following successive months of record-breaking performances, OPEC and participating non-OPEC countries have achieved a conformity level of 149% with their voluntary production adjustments, the highest level so far.

https://goo.gl/1QjDxM

Bahrain announces discovery of 80 billion barrels of oil

Bahrain announced its newly discovered shale oil reserve was estimated to contain more than 80 billion barrels, making the once-marginal oil producer potentially a major player in the market.

https://goo.gl/yb89Wf

Key Oil Trends 2017

Total OECD annual production of crude oil, NGL, and refinery feedstocks increased by 2.6% in 2017 compared to 2016

https://goo.gl/zK9eQJ

U.S. production of crude oil grew 5% in 2017,

likely leading to record 2018 production Annual average U.S. crude oil production reached 9.3 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2017, an increase of 464,000 b/d from 2016 levels after declining by 551,000 b/d in 2016. In November 2017, monthly U.S. crude oil production reached 10.07 million b/d, the highest monthly level of crude oil production in U.S. history.

https://goo.gl/2oBsNg

GAS

Nord Stream 2 Receives Full Set of Permits in Germany

Nord Stream 2 AG received on March 27 the permit for the construction and operation of the pipeline system in the German EEZ. The BSH



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issued the permit for this approximately 30kilometres-long route section in accordance with the Federal Mining Act (BBergG).

https://goo.gl/2eFsNy

BP to Sell Oilfields in Egypt to Shift focus to Natural Gas

British Petroleum has begun to sell off its mature oil fields in Egypt to shift its focus to developing the country's large natural gas reserves.

https://goo.gl/v3zahw

Natural gas expected to remain most-consumed fuel in the U.S. industrial sector

EIA expects a 40% increase in natural gas consumed in the U.S. industrial sector, from 9.8 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) in 2017 to 13.7 quadrillion Btu in 2050, according to the Annual Energy Outlook 2018 (AEO2018) Reference case. By 2020, total industrial natural gas consumption will surpass the previous record set in the early 1970s, according to the AEO2018 Reference case.

https://goo.gl/VZpAed

The United States exported more natural gas than it imported in 2017

The United States exported more natural gas than it imported in 2017, marking the first time since 1957 that the United States has been a net natural gas exporter. The transition to net exporter occurred as natural gas production in the United States continued to grow, reducing pipeline imports from Canada and increasing exports, both by pipeline and as liquefied natural gas (LNG).

https://goo.gl/wXfCZC

Key Natural Gas Trends 2017

Natural gas production across the OECD rose by 2.4% in 2017 compared to 2016, based on IEA monthly data

https://goo.gl/xzmZff

U.S. natural gas production and consumption increase in nearly all AEO2018 cases

EIA's Annual Energy Outlook 2018 (AEO2018) projects that U.S. dry natural gas production will increase through 2050 across a wide variety of alternative assumptions about the future. In the Reference case, which is based on current laws and regulations, production grows 59% from 2017 to 2050, starting at 73.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2017 and reaching 118 Bcf/d in 2050.

https://goo.gl/FRwW2L

ENERGY POLICY

Russia's Gazprom says has started terminating gas contracts with Ukraine

Russia's gas giant Gazprom has started a procedure to terminate contracts with Ukrainian energy firm Naftogaz in an arbitration tribunal in Stockholm, Gazprom deputy CEO Alexander Medvedev said on Saturday, March 3rd, escalating a dispute which has left Ukraine struggling to stay warm and which the EU said could threaten gas flows to Europe.

https://goo.gl/QrGdHW

U.S. energy industry slams Trump's 'job-killing' steel tariffs

The U.S. oil and gas industry slammed President Donald Trump's plan to impose tariffs on imported steel, saying the move would kill energy jobs by raising costs for big infrastructure projects.



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https://goo.gl/xMhJQM

With gas and diplomacy, Russia embraces Cold War foe Pakistan

As U.S. influence in Islamabad wanes, Pakistan's former adversary Russia is building military, diplomatic and economic ties that could upend historic alliances in the region and open up a fast-growing gas market for Moscow's energy companies.

https://goo.gl/t8aL3x

Oil 2018: IEA's five-year oil market analysis and forecast

The journey to 2023 is starting from a relatively comfortable place. An overhang in global oil stocks has all but disappeared and oil prices have recovered. The oil price rally has rewarded those taking part in output cuts and has also unleashed a new wave of growth from the United States. Coupled with gains from Brazil, Canada, and Norway, oil markets now look adequately supplied through 2020. There is no call for complacency, however, and more investment is needed now to ensure secure supplies to meet robust demand growth.

https://goo.gl/9d6qpW

Record oil output from US, Brazil, Canada and

Norway to keep global markets well supplied Oil production growth from the United States, Brazil, Canada and Norway can keep the world well supplied, more than meeting global oil demand growth through 2020, but more investment will be needed to boost output after that, according to the International Energy Agency's latest annual report on oil markets.

https://goo.gl/vQUWEr

Saudi Aramco urges industry transformation at GEO 2018 conference

Nearly 4,000 geoscientists and oil and gas professionals from around the globe converged this week at Bahrain's International Exhibition & Convention Center for the 13th Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition (GEO 2018), the region's largest technical program of its kind, to explore technologies addressing industry challenges.

https://goo.gl/pZ2hPa

Saudi Aramco CEO Nasser addresses future of oil at annual CeraWeek conference

Speaking at the annual CeraWeek conference in Houston, President and CEO Amin H. Nasser said Saudi Aramco is actively pursuing and investing in several innovative and promising new technologies and initiatives, not only in oil, but also in its multiple uses, such as in transportation, petrochemicals, advanced materials, as well as in carbon emissions reduction.

https://goo.gl/PQQgpb

BP Technology Outlook 2018

BP today published the second edition of the BP Technology Outlook. The report considers the potential impact of advances in technology throughout the global energy system to 2050, without predicting policy. It explores five areas where BP believes technology can play a gamechanging role: Energy efficiency; digital; renewable power; energy storage; and decarbonized gas.

https://goo.gl/PJ2Fm2

Alexey Miller and Italian Ambassador Pasquale Terracciano discuss ongoing efforts to create southern route for Russian gas supplies to Europe Particular attention at the meeting was paid to the diversification of gas export routes from Russia to Europe. The parties reviewed the



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ongoing efforts to establish a southern supply route stretching across the Black Sea. Alexey Miller informed Pasquale Terracciano of the completion of over 50 per cent of the offshore section of the TurkStream gas pipeline. It was highlighted that the second string of the pipeline would provide European consumers with 15.75 billion cubic meters of gas annually.

https://goo.gl/8Dn6x5

Cement technology roadmap plots path to cutting CO2 emissions 24% by 2050

A combination of technology and policy solutions could provide a pathway to reducing direct carbon dioxide emissions from the cement industry by 24% below current levels by 2050, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI).

https://goo.gl/a4kyrC

Commentary: International Maritime Organization agrees to first long-term plan to curb emissions

The International Maritime Organization agreed Friday on its first ambitious strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the international shipping sector to meet the Paris Agreement goals. The agreement benefited from input and analysis from the International Energy Agency, specifically being in line with projections from the IEA's Beyond 2°C Scenario (B2DS). The IMO strategy includes a target to reduce carbon emission by at least 50% compared with 2008 levels by 2050. This strategy will have farreaching consequences for a sector that has traditionally faced significant barriers to innovations.

https://goo.gl/geCLqe

Economic value of energy efficiency can drive reductions in global CO2 emissions

Ambitious energy efficiency policies can keep global energy demand and energy-related carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions steady until

2050, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency. Perspectives for the Energy Transition: The Role of Energy Efficiency shows that despite a near-tripling of the world economy and a global population that increases by nearly 2.3 billion, end-use energy efficiency alone can deliver 35% of the cumulative CO₂ savings through 2050 required to meet global climate goals.

https://goo.gl/EN67u1

IEA convenes meeting of the Energy Business Council

The International Energy Agency held a meeting of the IEA Energy Business Council, which brings together representatives of the world's largest energy companies to review the state of the global energy system.

https://goo.gl/AH6DMi

EU ENERGY POLICY

Sustainable finance: Commission's Action Plan for a greener and cleaner economy

The European Commission is unveiling its strategy for a financial system that supports the EU's climate and sustainable development agenda. The Action Plan on sustainable finance is part of the Capital Markets Union's (CMU) efforts to connect finance with the specific needs of the European economy to the benefit of the planet and our society. It is also one of the key steps towards implementing the historic Paris Agreement and the EU's agenda for sustainable development.

https://goo.gl/s6LP1C



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Fuel quality: Commission urges 10 Member States to transpose the rules to calculate and report the greenhouse gas emissions of fuels On March 8th, the European Commission decided to issue a reasoned opinion to Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom for failing to transpose EU rules on quality of petrol and diesel fuels (Council Directive (EU) 2015/652) into their national law. The Directive lays down rules to calculate and report the greenhouse gas emissions of fuels and other energy from non-biological sources

https://goo.gl/WtvJ3F

Statement of Vice-President Šefčovič on Russian-Ukrainian natural gas situation in March 2018

The Commission was informed by the Ukrainian authorities about their concern regarding a possible emergency situation in the Ukrainian Gas Transmission System (GTS). This issue is, according to the information so far available to the Commission, based on from three elements. Read more:

https://goo.gl/ZqQiTp

Statement of Vice-President Šefčovič on natural gas situation following contacts with Russian-Ukrainian counterparts

Following the contact by the Ukrainian authorities at the end of the week regarding the situation of the Ukrainian gas system and the gas imports from Russia, Vice-President Šefčovič has reached out to both the Ukrainian and Russian authorities. Over the past days, Vice-President Šefčovič spoke to Ukraine's Prime Minister Groysman, to Naftogaz CEO Kobolev and to Russia's Energy Minister Novak. The conversations focused on Ukraine's concern regarding pressure levels in gas supply from Russia, on gas for the transit to the European Union as well as on the recent decision of the Stockholm Arbitration Tribunal.

https://goo.gl/doMQzP

Energy Union: Synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity network with the European system will strengthen solidarity and regional security of supply.

On March 22nd, at a meeting held in the European Commission premises, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker together with the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė, the Prime Minister of Estonia Jüri Ratas, the Prime Minister of Latvia Māris Kučinskis and the Prime Minister of Poland Mateusz Morawiecki stressed the importance of the synchronisation process as a key element to physically integrate the Baltic States with the Continental European energy system and offering a major contribution to the unity and energy security of the European Union. They stressed that this is one of the most emblematic projects of the Energy Union and a concrete expression of solidarity in energy security.

https://goo.gl/uByUHD

Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on first ever EU legislation to monitor and report CO2 emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

Representatives from the European Parliament and the Council reached yesterday evening a provisional agreement on the Regulation for monitoring and reporting CO2 emissions and fuel consumption data from new heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs), i.e. lorries, buses and coaches. This is the first ever EU legislation focusing on the CO2 emissions from these vehicles.

https://goo.gl/vQBAXw

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Weathering Trump's skepticism, U.S. officials still fighting global warming

Despite Trump's rhetoric of climate denialism, there has been a business-as-usual approach



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outside the U.S. over the past year. His government provides support in international forums which are dealing with tackling climate change, while within his borders Trump continues the aggressive production of fossil fuels, the rollback of climate regulations and the effort to fill key positions with climate skeptics. This contrast creates uncertainty regarding the future of U.S. climate policy.

https://goo.gl/WJpYhN

Experts Establish Blueprint to Gauge Impact of Climate Change on Cities

Experts have established a global blueprint to better understand climate change, its impacts on cities, and the critical role local authorities play in solving this challenge. The research agenda was drawn up at the IPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference that took place in Edmonton, Canada. The range of knowledge gained from the sessions will help chart a course for current and future sources of emissions, urban climate impacts, and pathways for cities to pursue emissions reduction and resilience strategies.

https://goo.gl/bC4aSM

International Solar Alliance to Tap the Sun in Support of Paris Goals

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) received a significant boost at a launch ceremony in New Delhi attended by Heads of State and Government and top UN officials, including the head of UN Climate Change.The initiative, meanwhile ratified by 30 countries and signed by 60, focuses on investment in large-scale solar energy in developing countries to both meet escalating energy demand and fight rapid climate change.

https://goo.gl/X6PVm4

African Development Bank Works with ISA to Bring Solar to the Sahel

The African Development Bank is working closely with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to scale up solar energy in Africa, with a focus on developing 10,000 MW of solar power systems across the Sahel. The African Development Bank's Desert to Power solar initiative supported by the Solar Alliance aims to provide electricity to 250 million people, with 90 million of these being on off-grid systems.

https://goo.gl/2on9Gb

China Meets 2020 Carbon Target Three Years Ahead of Schedule

China reached its 2020 carbon emission target three years ahead of schedule with the help of the country's carbon trading system according to Xie Zhenhua, China's representative to UNFCCC negotiations. The development provides an important boost to the Paris Agreement on Climate Action, which has the central goal to limit the global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius and as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible.

https://goo.gl/UyXgzg

Major universities join forces to promote sustainable finance

A new global alliance has been launched today to help scale-up the green finance sector. 18 major universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, Yale and Stanford, have joined the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment (GRASFI).

https://goo.gl/M5vUSg

World Added Far More New Solar Than Fossil Fuel Power in 2017

The amount of solar power added worldwide surged in 2017, far more than the additions of fossil fuels. A new report by UN Environment,



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Frankfurt School - UNEP Collaborating Centre, and Bloomberg New Energy Finance underlines that clean energy makes sense for the climate and the global economy, but the unstoppable transition to clean energy must accelerate to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

https://goo.gl/V6aspv

World Nations Agree to At Least Halve Shipping Emissions by 2050

Countries at the International Maritime Organization have taken a crucial step to limit the climate impact of global maritime transport. At a historic session in London of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 173 Member States have adopted an initial strategy to reduce the carbon emissions of global shipping by at least 50% in 2050 compared with 2008.

https://goo.gl/eVhbo2

Governments Meet in Bonn To Step Up Climate Action Critical to the implementation of Paris Agreement

Governments are meeting for the next round of UN climate change negotiations from 30 April to 10 May to further develop the guidelines for implementing the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement. This will allow the agreement to become operational. The guidelines, or operating manual, are needed to unlock practical actions to realize the full potential of the agreement. The final decisions are to be taken at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Poland at the end of this year.

https://goo.gl/aQrPzM