

Equinox Stocktake: Global Climate Observation Systems

Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, 29 Rue Vautier, 1000 Brussels (in person)

This one-day event will determine the current state of play of global climate observation systems and the threats to sustained observations of ECVs. It will also consider how the observations are used by Parties to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement as well as options to improve their utility to these processes.

DRAFT Programme *(All times CET)*

09:30 Registration and Coffee

10:00 Welcome and Introduction by Host

on behalf of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)

Petra Manderscheid – BELSPO/JPI Climate

Stocktake Introduction: Purpose and Objectives

Antonio Navarra – CMCC, Chair of JPI Climate

10:15 Overview: Structure, Roles and History of GCOS and European Developments

- Albert Fischer – WMO/GCOS
 - Hugo Zunker – European Commission DG Defis, and Federico Fierli – DG RTD
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10:45 Session I State of Play: Observations Across the Domains (Weather, Climate, Composition) Focus on gaps and emerging threats – overview of observation networks based on recent GCOS analysis

Session Chair: Petra Manderscheid – BELSPO/JPI Climate

- **Atmosphere** Peter Thorne – Maynooth University, Ireland
- **Ocean** Sabrina Speich – École Normale Supérieure, France
- **Terrestrial** Claudia Giardino – Consiglio Nazionale di Ricerca, Italy

11:30 Coffee Break

11:45 Session II Respondents by User Applications

Session Chair: Ned Dwyer – University College Cork

- Tina Christensen – Danish Meteorological Institute
- Valérie Masson-Delmotte – LSCE, Université Paris Saclay, France
- Marie Cavitte – Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Water & Climate, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Gerard van der Schrier – Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI)
- Maria de Farago – Telespazio UK (Space4Climate member)

Panel Discussion including audience

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session III Future Directions for GCOS

Opportunities and challenges for science, policy, research and innovation – Earth system cycles and trends

Session Chair: Susanne Mecklenburg – European Space Agency

- **Energy** Karina von Schuckmann – Mercator Ocean International
- **Water** Matthias Zink – International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC), Germany
- **Carbon** Peter Landschützer – Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium
- **Climate Indicators** Piers Forster – University of Leeds, UK

Roundtable: Data Archives, Generation, Access and Custodianship

including space-based and in-situ observations *joined by*

- Samantha Burgess – European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)
- Stijn Nevens – Belgium Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium (RMIB)

A Way Forward – A Business Case for GCOS

Peter Thorne – Maynooth University, Ireland

15:45 Coffee Break

16:15 Session IV Value of Earth Observation – Stakeholder Responses

Session Chair: Albert Fischer – WMO/GCOS

- Samantha Burgess – ECMWF
- Heather Maseko-Msyale – UNFCCC Secretariat
- Emma Woolliams – National Physical Laboratory, UK
- Susanne Mecklenburg – European Space Agency

Final General Discussion

17:45 Outcomes and Next Steps

Frank McGovern – EPA Ireland, Vice-Chair of JPI Climate

Closure of the Event

18:00 Dinner / Reception