Legislating for low carbon and climate resilient transition

Dr. Alina Averchenkova
Distinguished Policy Fellow, Lead Governance and Legislation
Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
London School of Economics

Via audio message
Climate change laws of the world:
A global searchable database with over 1500 laws and executive acts

http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/climate-change-laws-of-the-world/
Climate legislation and executive acts globally in 1997
70 laws and acts

[Map showing distribution of climate legislation and executive acts globally in 1997]
Climate legislation and executive acts globally in 2018
Almost 1500 laws: A twenty fold increase in 20 years
Climate laws and policies by focus area

- Energy
- Climate change / low-carbon transitions
- Mainstreamed into planning
- Forestry
- Various
Scientifically informed, long-term, whole-economy approach to policymaking
Long-term target to 2050

What and how?
- Reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels
- Covers the whole economy and all greenhouse gases

Outcomes
- Long-term direction of travel
- Defines the UK’s contribution to solving climate change
Carbon budgets

What and how?
- Sequence of 5-year targets
- Recommended by Committee on Climate Change (CCC)
- Debated and legislated by Parliament

Set 12 years ahead

Outcomes
- Basis for concrete policy
- Long-term target translated into near-term actions
- Flexibility built in
- Progressive, ratcheted emissions cuts

Actual emissions
- Million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent

-25% -31% -37% -51% -57% -80%
Continual adaptation planning

What and how?
- 5-year cycles of adaptation programmes and risk assessments
  Scrutinised by CCC

Outcomes
- Introduced climate change risk into public and private sector decision-making
  Prepares for the now unavoidable impacts
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- Independent, objective analysis
- Long-term consistency in approach across government
- Transparency and legitimacy
- More informed decision-making
Duties and powers to deliver

**What and how?**

- Government is accountable to Parliament to deliver
- Government obliged to produce plans to meet budgets
- CCC provides annual progress reports to Parliament
- Judicial review if non-compliant

**Outcomes**

- Assigns clear responsibilities
- Holds government accountable
- Enables public scrutiny
- Provides basis for policy implementation
Note: Series indexed to start at 100 in 1990. In 2016 UK GDP was £1.9 tn and greenhouse gas emissions were 466 m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Source: CCC (2017a).
Key Learnings

- A rapid growth in climate change related legislation in the recent years reflects the growing commitment of parliaments globally to act.
- A framework climate change law is an effective way to coordinate and advance climate action.
- A frameworks law makes it more difficult to negate on long-term objectives in case of the future political change.
- A good framework law is not a substitute for political leadership on climate change.
- To be effective, a framework law requires good policies to be developed underneath.
For more information see:

The Governance and Legislation research programme:
http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/research-theme/governance-and-legislation/

Thank you!

Alina Averchenkova
a.averchenkova@lse.ac.uk
+44 7799657954
http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/profile/alina-averchenkova/