



**40 YEARS OF
INNOVATION**
1985 — 2025



LATEST VERSION – UPDATED 12.03.25

Coimbra Group 40th Anniversary Climate Symposium Durham University 24th – 26th March 2025

Final Programme

Monday 24th March – Evening Networking Reception and Symposium Registration

Note: Student Ambassadors will be available to guide delegates on foot from the Radisson Blu Hotel to St Chad's College; a 20 minute walk. Meeting point will be the hotel lobby, first departure at 17:30, last departure at 18:00.

Venue: Cassidy Quad, St Chad's College, 18 N Bailey, Durham DH1 3RH		
18:00 – 21:00	Networking Reception and Registration Registration desk open from 18:00, speeches at 19:00. Drinks and canapés+ served.	Introductory speeches from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University• Professor Ludovic Thilly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers• Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna• Professor Petra Minnerop, Professor of International Law, Durham University



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Tuesday 25th March – Climate Symposium

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

Moderator: Anna Gumbau, *Moderating EU*

08:30		Coffee & Team on Arrival
09:00 – 09:45	Opening Keynote address Followed by Q&A	Dr Tony Juniper CBE , Chair of Natural England Introduced by Professor Ludovic Thilly , Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers Q&A facilitated by Professor Martin Evans , Executive Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Durham University
09:45 – 10:45	Universities as Innovators Presentations	10-minute presentations followed by Q&A. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Annetje Ottow, President, Leiden University • Professor Jane Stout, Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin • Dr. Max Jungmann, Managing Director of the Heidelberg University Center for the Environment • Professor Zamorano Toro, Vice-Rector for Infrastructure and Sustainability, University of Granada Q&A facilitated by Anna Gumbau , Moderating EU
10:45 – 11:15	Refreshment Break	
11:15 – 12:15	Universities as Investors Panel discussion	Panel discussions on how institutions are investing for climate, nature and society. Chair: Professor Harriet Bulkeley OBE , Professor of Geography, at Durham University and at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Lenka Henebergová, Member of the Rectors’ Board for Social Affairs and Sustainable Development; Vice-Dean for Internationalisation, Charles University Prague • Professor Patrícia Pereira da Silva, Pro-Rector, University of Coimbra • Dr Susan Simon, Director UKRI Environmental Sustainability Programme

Tuesday 25th March – Climate Symposium (continued)

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

Moderator: Anna Gumbau, *Moderating EU*

12:15 – 13:00	Keynote address Followed by Q&A	<p>Professor Christopher Smith, Executive Chair of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and member of the Science Europe Governing Board (online)</p> <p>Keynote preceded by an introductory talk (in person) by Professor Mike Bentley, Professor of Geography at University of Durham: “What does the funding and collaboration landscape look like for polar climate change researchers?”</p> <p>Q&A facilitated by Anna Gumbau, Moderating EU</p>
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch	Group Photo at 14:15
14:30 – 17:00	Universities as Educators	Panel discussion around the importance of student engagement in efforts to combat climate change.
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion	<p>Chair: Sam Barratt, Chief of the Youth, Education and Advocacy Unit in the UN Environment Programme’s Ecosystems Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Teresa Sauras-Yera, Vice-Rector for Sustainability and climate action, University of Barcelona • Professor Kirk Junker, Vice-Rector for Sustainability, University of Cologne • Andrea Pichelli, Director for Global Strategic Engagement (GLOBEC), University of Pavia • Shatakshi, Durham University M.Sc.- Sustainability, Energy & Development '24
15:30 – 15:45	Refreshment Break	
15:50 – 16:40	Gaming Towards a Sustainable Future	<p>Utrecht University to present the story behind the ‘Eyes of the Future’ Serious Game initiative and competition, with presentation of certificates to winning teams from Bergen and Iași, by Professor Kjetil Rommetveit, University of Bergen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Karin Rebel Professor of Sustainability Science & Education, Utrecht University • Dr Gemma O’Sullivan, Educational Scientist, Utrecht University
16:40 – 17:00	Closing Keynote address	Lana Par , Vice-President, European Students’ Union



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Tuesday 25th March – Symposium Dinner

Venue: Great Hall, University College (Durham Castle), Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RW ·

Note: Student Ambassadors will be available to guide delegates on foot from the Radisson Blu Hotel to University College; a 15 minute walk. Meeting point will be the hotel lobby, First departure at 18:15, last departure at 18:45.

18:30	Reception and Exhibition	Posters display, showcasing outputs from the Durham University student-led ‘Sustainable Futures’ competition and from Coimbra Group Working Groups
19:30	Symposium Dinner A seated, 3-course dinner to be served at 19:30 After-dinner speaker	Dress Code: Formal attire (Formal or semi-formal evening dress) H.E. Mr Francois Jackman , Ambassador of Barbados and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Wednesday 26th March - Climate Symposium

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

Moderator: Anna Gumbau, *Moderating EU*

08:30		Coffee & Team on Arrival
09:00 – 10:30	Universities as Partners Presentations	10-minute presentations followed by Q&A. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Sébastien Castellort, Vice Rector for Research and Sustainability, University of Geneva • Professor Ludovic Thilly, Vice-Rector for a European University, Poitiers University • Léonore Moncond’huy, Mayor of Poitiers <p>Break for Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna • Professor Marjo Kaartinen, Coimbra Group Honorary President and Rector of Turku University • Professor Michele Acuto, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Bristol

Wednesday 26th March - Climate Symposium (continued)

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

Moderator: Anna Gumbau, *Moderating EU*

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:40	Introduction to the Durham Declaration and scene-setting for The Coimbra Group 2025 Annual Conference in Bologna	<p>Introduced by Professor Ludovic Thilly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Daniel Donoghue, Professor of Geography, Durham, and Coimbra Group Executive Board member • Professor Petra Minnerop, Professor of International Law, Durham University
11:40 – 11:50	Ceremonial signing of the Durham Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Ludovic Thilly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers • Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice Chancellor, Durham • Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna
11:50 – 12:30	Fireside Chat	<p>Facilitated by Anna Gumbau, Moderating EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Barratt, Chief of the Youth, Education and Advocacy Unit in the United Nations Environment Programme's Ecosystems Division • Professor Charlotte Clarke, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health), Durham University
12:30 – 12:40	Closing Remarks	Professor Ludovic Thilly , Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers
12:40 – 14:00	Networking Lunch	
14:30 – 16:30	Optional Activity	<p>A guided tour of Durham Cathedral (14:30 – 15:15) followed by a guided Tour of Durham Castle (15:45 – 16:30)</p> <p><i>Note: Student Ambassadors will be available to guide delegates on foot from the symposium venue to Durham Cathedral, leaving at 14:00 from the Waterside Building foyer.</i></p>

End of Programme