

Coal power should be consigned to history to keep to 1.5 degrees

Greetings to you all.

It is a pleasure to join you today, and thank you to the Danish Government, IRENA, UNEP and WEF and all other partners involved in organising Energy Action Day.

The subject of this panel event, the coal to clean power transition, is absolutely vital.

Because, we want to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must consign coal power to history.

There's really no question about it.

When the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, they committed to limit the rise in global temperature to well below two degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees.

Because the science shows that this will prevent the most severe impacts.

But that 1.5 degree limit will slip out of reach unless we act immediately.

That was the clear message from the IPCC in August, in their report on the latest climate science.

To keep 1.5 alive we must halve global emissions by 2030.

So the time for talking is behind us. We need urgent action now.

And particularly on power, which accounts for a quarter of global emissions.

Decarbonising our power systems is eminently achievable given the plummeting price of renewables and the stranded asset risk coal presents as a result.

So accelerating the clean energy transition is an absolute focus of the UK's COP26 Presidency.

And we are seeing progress.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum has recently released a statement supporting no new coal power.

And countries like Pakistan have committed to put an end to new coal power.

I look forward to hearing from Minister Aslam in this session about Pakistan's clean energy transition, and how international partners can support it.

Here in the UK, coal is down to less than 2 percent of our energy mix and we plan to phase it out entirely by the end of 2024.

And under our Presidency of the G7, the entire group has committed to move to overwhelmingly decarbonised power systems in the 2030s, and to stop financing coal internationally.

South Korea will end international coal finance too, meaning two of the three largest funders in the world will no longer be putting their money into coal.

To support the clean energy transition around the world, our COP26 Presidency has also been building up international collaboration.

Because we recognise that by working together, we make progress faster.

Last year we launched the COP26 Energy Transition Council, this brings together more than 20 governments, and 15 international institutions, including development banks, to support the green transition in developing countries.

We have also launched the Rapid Response Facility, which is currently responding to over 15 country requests for timely, flexible support with their energy transition.

And we plan to build on these initiatives beyond Glasgow, so that strong partnerships between governments, investors and communities continue to drive the energy revolution.

We urge countries, regions, companies and investors to join the Powering Past Coal Alliance, to accelerate the move away from coal, and the number of national government members has increased 25 percent since COP25.

And we ask financial institutions to move away from coal, and seize the opportunity of investing in clean power alternatives.

To encourage investments in emerging markets we have brought governments, investors and industry together in dialogues, including through the Energy Transition Council, to build investment confidence.

And I am very pleased that public financial institutions are supporting countries with the energy transition.

The "Climate Investments Funds" are an excellent example, and you will hear from their CEO, Mafalda Duarte, today, as well as hearing from Mary Quaney, CEO of Mainstream Renewable Power, a leader in working with local countries and communities to deliver the clean energy transition in new markets.

The progress we have seen is fantastic but there is much further to go ahead of COP26.

Because a gap remains. And it is far too large.

480 gigawatts-worth of new coal power stations are still planned around the

world.

So ahead of COP26 and at the summit itself, we need governments to make those strong, clear commitments to end polluting coal generation and prioritise clean power.

We urge countries to put an end to coal power.

By phasing out existing plants, committing not to build any new ones, and putting an end to international coal finance.

We need all investors, acting on our shared responsibility, to protect our planet.

And we need to keep building up the international collaboration, at COP26 and beyond it, to accelerate the clean energy revolution over this vital decade.

Which, frankly, it is no exaggeration to say, will determine the course of our planet's future.

I hope the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy next week will see countries announcing ambitious action on energy, including through their Energy Compacts.

And on COP26 Energy Day we will highlight countries' commitments to scale up clean power, stop new coal and support a just transition.

Because the world needs to see urgent action on power – particularly the global exit from coal – to keep 1.5 degrees alive and ensure access to clean, affordable and reliable energy for all.

And I hope that today, you will have a productive discussion on the practical ways in which we can spur action on energy, supported by international collaboration.

With a panel like this, composed of trailblazers in their respective areas, working together, I am sure that you will.

So let's keep working together to revolutionise the way we power the world.

Thank you.

Alex Chalk appointed as Solicitor General

Press release

The Prime Minister has appointed Alex Chalk MP as Solicitor General.



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The Solicitor General will oversee the work of the Law Officers' Departments which include the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office, as well as the Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Solicitor General also carries out a number of functions in the public interest, such as considering unduly lenient sentences, and taking action when there has been a contempt of court. These functions are carried out independently of his role as a Government minister.

Commenting on his appointment, Solicitor General Alex Chalk MP said:

"I am delighted to be appointed as Solicitor General for England and Wales. I am looking forward to working with the Attorney General, Suella Braverman, to help build back better and safer from the pandemic and to continue the Government's work in rebuilding confidence and trust in our criminal justice system.

"It is an honour to be joining this unique and historic government department which occupies a vital place at the heart of the UK constitution."

Published 17 September 2021

[Accrington man handed 12 months suspended jail sentence for fraud](#)

On Tuesday 14 September, Bernard Holmes of Blackburn was sentenced at Preston Crown Court to 12 months' jail, suspended for two years. The court also ordered 120 hours of unpaid work and a 30-day rehabilitation requirement. The sentence follows his guilty plea to three counts of fraud on 19 July.

Holmes has a history of offending and served a jail sentence for assault between July 2019 and October 2020. Prior to that offence, Holmes fraudulently used his uncle's identity to gain an SIA licence. He did this as he knew that his criminal record would prevent him from being allowed a licence in his own name. He completed the required training in August 2018 and was awarded a SIA door supervisor's licence on 10 January 2019.

On 21 September 2018 SIA investigators were carrying out routine checks at the Rail and the Nag's Head public houses in Accrington. Security staff confirmed that they had been deployed by RR Ryan Response Ltd, and that their employer was Bernard Holmes. This was later confirmed by management. SIA investigators could not find any evidence that Holmes had an SIA licence. They invited him for an interview which he failed to attend.

During the investigation the SIA found that Holmes was an associate of Jason Grogan whom he trained with. Holmes put Grogan under pressure to form a company, RR Ryan Response Ltd. Holmes formed the company without Grogan's knowledge in August 2018. Grogan, who was refused an SIA licence in 2019, told SIA investigators that he was unaware that he was the director of the company.

During the autumn SIA investigators approached witnesses, including the training provider, who identified the person claiming to be Jason Nicholson as Bernard Holmes.

In August 2020 SIA investigators approached Jason Nicholson for a formal interview, which he refused. They later interviewed Nicholson in conjunction with Lancashire Constabulary, when he confirmed that he was Holmes' uncle. Nicholson told investigators that he had never trained or applied for an SIA licence. He also stated that he had no knowledge that his identity had been used to fraudulently gain qualifications and an SIA licence.

On Tuesday, His Honour Judge Simon Medland QC, said of Holmes:

You have a long history of periodic outbursts of violence and serious conduct. These have resulted in not insignificant periods in custody. You knew when you were undertaking the process (of getting a licence) you were not going to go through the usual channels. This is because you know you would not have been granted a SIA licence. The SIA works well in making sure people are fit and proper and you are not that. You went about matters in a devious way. You were cunning in your approach to circumvent this regime and it worked for a period of time. These offences took place in August 2018 and we are now in September 2021 and within that time you have since been to prison for violence.

Jen Hart, the SIA's criminal investigation manager, said:

This is a complicated and a devious fraud. This case demonstrates that the SIA will always seek to identify those who are abusing the

licensing system designed to protect the public. The severity of the sentence demonstrates that the court thought so too.

Notes to editors:

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
 - For further information about the Security Industry Authority visit www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).
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[Uncle Kentang awarded the Commonwealth Point of Light for exemplary service to community](#)

H.E. Charles Hay, the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, presented the award on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Kuan in a simple ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

Kuan has been offering his service to the community for many years, helping the poor, the needy and the underprivileged. He provides transport and ambulance service, free hearse and funeral for the poor and the indigenous orang asli community. He also runs a food bank, operates a 12-hour suicidal hotline, helps arrange shelter for abused women and children as well as sets up a community policing teams to keep crimes at bay.

Kuan is known by many as “uncle kentang” since the days when he started distributing potatoes to the poor. He is also known as the 10-sen man because he offers 10-sen ambulance service, 10-sen taxi and sells items for 10-sen at flea market to alleviate the financial burden of the poor and needy.

The 57 year old philanthropist, who was surprised when he was first informed of the news, said:

I feel extremely honoured and proud to be awarded the Commonwealth Points of Light award. When I began this journey of service, my motive was not to get any form of reward or recognition, but purely to make a difference in the lives of those who needed help. I was

supported in my efforts by a group of wonderful people who put service before self. Getting this award is an honour not just for me but for my great team of volunteers who share my passion.

The award belongs to all donors and Malaysians who work hard and support all initiatives taken to uplift the quality of living. I thank Her Majesty The Queen of England with all our best wishes. The award will spur us to work harder indeed.

The Commonwealth Points of Light award is given by Her Majesty The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, to outstanding volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations for the difference they are making in their communities.

H.E. Charles Hay, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, said:

The award is a fitting acknowledgement of Mr Kuan's tireless efforts in helping those in need. It is important to recognise exceptional volunteers like Mr Kuan and share their stories of service. I hope this can inspire others to contribute back to the society.

Prior to Kuan, three other Malaysians have received the Commonwealth Points of Light award. They are Dr Madhusudhan, who provides free medical treatment to the homeless through his Teddy Mobile Clinics; Dr Chen Pelf Nyok from the Turtle Conservation Society, who protects freshwater turtles in Terengganu; as well as Ms Khor Sue Yee and Ms Aurora Tin from Zero Waste Malaysia for promoting a zero-waste lifestyle to save the environment.

29th Pontignano Conference: UK and Italy together to build back better

- The 29th edition of the Pontignano Conference will focus on the opportunities that Italy and the UK can seize to shape and strengthen growth in a period of rapid change.
- Prof. Mariana Mazzucato will be recognised for her innovative contribution to economic thought in the UK, Italy and the world, and in particular for her role in founding the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.
- Building on last year's experience, the conference remains a hybrid,

with five ministers attending and several others speaking remotely.

- The 29th edition of the Pontignano Conference, the most important event on the Anglo-Italian agenda, is being held in Siena from 16 to 18 September.

It is organised by the British Embassy in Italy and the British Council, the British body for cultural relations and opportunities in education, in collaboration with the University of Siena and St. Antony's College of Oxford. The event is co-organised in collaboration with the ICE Agency.

Chaired by Carlo Calenda and David Willetts, this year's event is entitled 'UK and Italy: together to rebuild better'. Experts in a wide range of fields and leading figures from the governments of London and Rome will be present. Supporting the importance of the occasion is the extensive ministerial representation, both in presence and virtual. Italy will be represented by the Minister for Economic Development, Giancarlo Giorgetti, and the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Benedetto Della Vedova, with the Undersecretary for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition Assuntela Messina in attendance.

The UK will be represented in person by Kwasi Kwarteng, Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and Minister for Cities, and Wendy Morton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for European Neighbourhood and the Americas.

Lord Bethell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care, and Lord Goldsmith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Pacific and Environment, will also be in London.

The importance of the occasion in the bilateral relations between Italy and the United Kingdom will once again be witnessed by a significant number of very high-level speeches also from the world of institutions, business, research and media.

The British Ambassador to Italy, Jill Morris, said:

Strengthened by the presence of our two countries in multiple international organisations, Italy and the UK are once again standing side by side in tackling global challenges that affect us all, and which require a joint global commitment. This year, through the UK's Presidency of the G7 and Italy's Presidency of the G20, as well as our partnership for COP26, we have a unique opportunity to lead a sustainable, green, equitable and resilient global recovery.

The themes of our respective Presidencies complement and complement each other perfectly, and have in common the goal of a sustainable

recovery from the pandemic. Strengthening our resilience and addressing the issues of climate change and biodiversity protection, while advancing our common values: this is at the heart of the debate at the centre of the XXIX edition of the Conference – “UK and Italy together to rebuild better” – for a renewed community of purpose in the interest of our countries and the generations to come.

The Director of the British Council in Italy, Rachel Launay, commented:

I look forward to participating in the Pontignano 2021 Conference, and investigating with experts how the world of art and culture will respond to the enormous challenges posed by climate change, as the culture and education sectors grapple with new models of functioning in a post-Covid world.

Programme

The conference kicked off on Thursday 16 September at 18:00 in the Aula Magna of the University of Siena.

Greetings from the co-chairs, Carlo Calenda and David Willetts, and from the Chancellor of the University of Siena, Prof. Francesco Frati, were followed by a keynote address from the award-winning Margaret Heffernan, Professor at the School of Management, University of Bath, on the lessons learned from the pandemic to improve resilience in the future of Italian and British societies.

The Conference will continue on Friday and Saturday behind closed doors, in accordance with the Chatham House Rule*, at the Certosa di Pontignano, just outside Siena, and will be divided into four thematic areas that will allow participants to address some fundamental issues for the future of our countries and Europe.

The third “Pontignano Award”

In the first edition this was given to the renowned scientist Rino Rappuoli, Head of Research and Development and Chief Scientist of GSK Vaccines, and in 2020 to the President Emeritus of the Republic and Senator for Life Giorgio Napolitano. This year it will be presented to Professor Mariana Mazzucato, in recognition of her innovative contribution to economic thinking in the UK, Italy and the world, and in particular for her role in founding the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, on the evening of Friday 17 September.

Professor Mazzucato commented on the prestigious award as follows:

I am deeply honoured to receive this year’s Pontignano Award. Italy and the UK face many of the same problems, such as climate change, inequality and lagging productivity, but they also have the same

opportunities. Working closely with the UK government since 2017 on its industrial strategy, with Prime Minister Conte on Italy's recovery programme and, in 2021, with the 'G7 Panel on Economic Resilience' under the leadership of Lord Mark Sedwill, has been truly inspiring.

If we are to achieve our goals of inclusive and sustainable growth, it is crucial that economic theory and practice is rethought to be more goal-oriented, with new metrics around the common good and public goals when we think about budgets, procurement and public-private partnerships. Only in this way will we be able to improve equity in the global health response, accelerate investment in climate mitigation and adaptation, and promote fair labour standards. The G7 working group offers timely recommendations for both countries as they seek to build more resilient economies in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The breakout sessions of the conference will focus on the following questions:

Group 1

Defence and Security

Following the publication of the UK Government's Integrated Review, how can democracies work together to strengthen collective security?

Moderator: Marta Dassù, Senior Director of European Affairs, The Aspen Institute.

With Piero Fassino, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies. Remotely connected Tobias Ellwood, Chairman of the Defence Committee, House of Commons, Roberta Pinotti, Chairman of the Defence Committee, Senate of the Republic.

Group 2

How can we build and maintain sustainable, resilient, secure and ethical supply chains that effectively integrate Italian and British components?

Moderator: Roberto Luongo, Director General, ICE.

With Philip Pratley, Director International Affairs UK, Leonardo MW Ltd and Maria Paola Chiesi, Director of Shared Value & Sustainability, Chiesi Farmaceutici.

Group 3

How can science and technology, and a culture of innovation, help the UK and Italy build a resilient strategy that can respond to future shocks in an

effective and sustainable way?

Moderator: Paul Monks, Chief Scientific Advisor, BEIS.

With Indro Mukerjee, CEO, Innovate UK and Gianna Martinengo, Founder and President, Women&Tech Interdisciplinary approaches to healthy recovery.

Moderator: John Holden, Cultural Fellow, King's College London & Giorgia Giovannetti, Vice President of International Relations, University of Florence.

Saturday will open with the presentation of the conclusions of the G7 Panel on Economic Resilience with Lord Sedwill, President of the Atlantic Future Forum, and Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University of London.

Saturday's proceedings will conclude with a panel on 'Future Trends' with Marta Foresti, Director, ODI Europe, and remotely, Katie O'Donovan, Director of Government Affairs, Google UK.

The XXIX edition of the Pontignano Conference has the valuable support of Algebris Investments, APCO Worldwide, Chiesi, Equita, GSK, Ipsos, Jaguar Land-Rover, Leonardo, Novamont, Poste Italiane, Sky and VMware.

Concept notes and links to materials and images:

www.britishcouncil.it/pontignano

Social media: British Council Twitter channel @itbritish British Embassy @UKinItalia, @UKinItaly and @JillMorrisFCDO will follow the conference with the hashtags #Pontignano2021 and #Pontignano. □

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