Introducing the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)

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What is...?

The EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)

- ✓ a tool to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- ✓ regulates about half of EU's CO2 emissions
- ✓ the "polluter pays"
- ✓ the largest 'cap-and-trade' scheme in the world:

sets a limit (a 'cap') on the total volume of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that certain installations (e.g. industrial plants, power stations, aircraft operators) can emit



Who are...? the sectors participating

- ✓ more than 11,000 installation in 31 countries: the 28 EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein
- ✓ power stations
- ✓ industrial companies: steel, cement, refineries, chemicals, paper, aluminum, fertilizers, etc.
- ✓ aircraft operators

also see Sandbag's interactive ETS-Dashboard: <u>http://sandbag-</u> <u>climate.github.io/EU_ETS_Dashboard.html?goto=map</u>



How does it work...? putting a limit ('cap') on emissions over time



- 'cap': limit on total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- EUAs: emission allowances ('pollution permits'), 1 EUA is worth 1t CO2
- the cap is reduced over time (=linear reduction factor, LRF)
- the 'caps' for 2020 are set at 21% below 2005 emissions.

How does it work...? trading emissions

- allocating EUAs ('pollution permits'): auctioning (default), free allocation
- installations can sell/buy EUAs within the overall cap
- <u>goal</u>: 100% auctioning to make the system fair, transparent and efficient
- carbon price: is set by the market (demand/supply)



How is it going? looking back and into the future

Market Watch

Phase 1 (2005-2007): trial phase.

Phase 2 (2008-2012):

- allowances mainly distributed via free allocation (4% auctioned)
- no harmonized method of distributing free allowances to industry (up to each Member State)
- National caps set by each Member State, no reduction path

Phase 3 (2013-2020):

± half of total allowances are auctioned

- free allowances are distributed via harmonized benchmarks
- EU-wide cap that declines each year by 1.74% (38 Mton CO₂)

Phase 4 (2021-2030): negotiations ongoing...

- ± half of total allowances to be auctioned (57%)
- free allowances are distributed via harmonized benchmarks
- EU-wide cap that declines each year by 2.2% (48 Mton CO₂)

How is it going?

EU greenhouse gas emission trends, projections and reduction targets





How is it going? the trouble with the carbon price





How is it going? polluters make profits while claiming otherwise







58,338 signatures so far...

https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/ETS



Read more:

Carbon leakage factsheets:

- <u>Germany</u>
- France
- The UK
- The Netherlands
- <u>Sweden</u>

www.carbonmarketwatch.org

On our carbon leakage

recommendations here

Carbon leakage myth buster

Carbon Market Watch

Carbon Market Watch Policy Briefing October 2015

On industry windfall profits here



CE Delft study <u>here</u>



On increasing the environmental integrity of the EU ETS <u>here</u>



Innovation Report "The Final Frontier" <u>here</u>



On the low-carbon transition of energy intensive industries <u>here</u>



THE CLIMATE FRIENDLY TRANSITION OF EUROPE'S ENERGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES Carbon Market Watch Policy Brief May 2016



Thank you!



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