

Sustainable Consumption, Climate and Competitiveness: A US Approach

ERRG has developed this project together with the Surrey European Law Unit and the Centre for Environmental Strategy (including some members of the RESOLVE consortium). A workshop has been organised at the University of Surrey on Friday May 30, 2008. The event was endorsed by the Institute of Advanced Studies and the School of Law of the University of Surrey.

Researchers

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Funding Body

- School of Law of the University of Surrey

Duration

2008



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The Project

Competitiveness concerns were one of the reasons why the Bush Administration decided not to become a party and the same questions seem to haunt current US climate policies. The US is not the only one concerned about possible negative competitiveness effects arising from the adoption of climate change measures. Within the European Union (EU), France has been the State that has raised most questions about this counter effect of the European climate leadership and border adjustment measures are being debated in the framework of the reform of the EU emissions trading scheme. The application of measures intended to off-set the negative competitiveness effects of a strong domestic or international climate policy may lead to a possible normative conflict between the domestic measure and the obligations that the very same State may have under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

This research will focus on the normative aspect of the problem and it will analyse what measures are being suggested in the US to offset possible negative competitiveness effects. In particular, the research will focus on the measures that are planned against developing countries such as China or India. The importance of the US action in relation to the global fight against climate change, and the possibility that it may be coupled by competitiveness offsetting measures that may collide with WTO norms, will be further linked to a third question: the rising interest on climate change and sustainable consumption.

Milestones

F. Sindico, "Climate and Trade in a Divided World" in B. Richardson, S. Wood, H. McLeod-Kilmurray and Y. Le Bouthillier (Eds.), *Climate Law and Developing Countries: Legal and Policy Challenges for the World Community*: Edward Elgar Publishing (2009), forthcoming

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