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Die ökonomischen Wirkungen der
Förderung erneuerbarer Energien:
Erfahrungen aus Deutschland

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Zur Kartellbildung im Gasmarkt: Status quo
und Perspektiven

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Wirtschaftspolitisches
Forum

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Instrument zur Ermöglichung fairen
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Lohnen sich Auslandsdirektinvestitionen
wirklich?

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Die ökonomischen Wirkungen der Förderung erneuerbarer Energien: Erfahrungen aus Deutschland

Manuel Frondel, Nolan Ritter, Christoph M. Schmidt und Colin Vance

Abstract

The allure of an environmentally benign, abundant, and cost-effective energy source has led an increasing number of industrialized countries to back public financing of renewable energies. Germany's experience with renewable energy promotion is often cited as a model to be replicated elsewhere, being based on a combination of far-reaching energy and environmental laws that stretch back nearly two decades. This paper critically reviews the centerpiece of this effort, the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), focusing on its costs and the associated implications for job creation and climate protection. We argue that German renewable energy policy, and in particular the adopted feed-in-tariff scheme, has failed to harness the market incentives needed to ensure a viable and cost-effective introduction of renewable energies into the country's energy portfolio. To the contrary, the government's support mechanisms have in many respects subverted these incentives, resulting in massive expenditures that show little long-term promise for stimulating the economy and protecting the environment.

JEL-Classification: Q28, Q42, Q48.

Die ökonomischen Wirkungen der Förderung erneuerbarer Energien: Erfahrungen aus Deutschland

Carsten Sander

Abstract

In the past few years the idea of a potential cartel in the natural gas market has emerged and was hyped in the media. Recently, the main producing countries under the leadership of Russia have built a formalized organisation to strengthen cooperation. Since then, regular meetings of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) have taken place. Especially in Europe, where import dependency will rise within the next decades, the stronger coordination has amplified the already existing fears of collusive behaviour. A closer look, however, reveals numerous obstacles that make a full-fledged cartel controlling prices by setting production quotas rather improbable at this time. Nevertheless, producers' attempt for more coordination should not be ignored.

JEL-Classification: Q31, Q40, O13, D43

Wirtschaftspoliotisches Forum

Sind Umweltzölle ein geeignetes Instrument zur Ermöglichung fairen Wettbewerbs zwischen Ländern mit hohen und geringen Klimaschutz-anforderungen?

Abstract

Felix Ekhardt assesses the possibilities for an extended pioneering role of the European Union in climate policy – secured by complementary border adjustments for imports and exports. Border adjustments do not discriminate against anybody in global free markets and therefore do not violate WTO rules, as they make sure that whoever refuses to protect the climate will not be granted an unfair advantage by eco-dumping. They allow the EU to act as a role model for countries like China, India and or the USA in advancing an effective and social (and economically prospering) climate policy.

While a strong economic case could be made for preventing leakage and also competitiveness effects from CO₂ pricing through a cost adjustment at the border for a few sectors, there is little evidence that trade measures as such help to create international leverage for climate policy cooperation, argues *Susanne Dröge*. From a political point of view, the risk of disruptions amongst trade partners is fairly high. To Dröges point of view, this is a major argument for limiting the use of border adjustments altogether.

Andreas Löschel looks at the impacts of climate policy on international competitiveness and carbon leakage and the potential future challenges in implementing environmental tariffs. He argues that environmental tariffs are not the least evil among the different trade measures as a means of protecting domestic industry.

JEL-Classifications: A10, F18, K33, Q56

Markt und Staat bei Adam Smith

Johannes Treu

The name of Adam Smith is always associated with the development of the invisible hand, the differentiation of labour and with the foundation of the economic liberalism, so that his book the Wealth of Nation is still in fashion. Based on the criticism of mercantilism system Smith develops his own economic system. Furthermore this economic system is more than pure discretion it is also instruction which role the market and the state have to fulfil. Smith attributes to the market his famous role, the free function of the price system. Whereas the function of the state is limited to three tasks and no intervention into the market or price process are allowed.

JEL-Classification: B1, B16

Lohnen sich Auslandsdirektinvestitionen wirklich?

David Helfenbein und Andreas Westermeier

Abstract

This article analyses the question whether FDIs have a positive or negative impact on employment and turnover. The analysis is done with the IAB establishment panel and covers the years 2005 to 2007. While the descriptive analysis shows no clear pattern, the econometric analysis leads to the conclusion that FDIs have a positive impact on employment. Since the time period is rather short, it is worthwhile to analysis the development of firms with FDI and without FDI over a longer time period.

JEL-Classification: F00, F21