The EU CO₂ Emissions Trading System

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Nature of the Book

- Rigorously backward-looking ex post evaluation of the first three years (2005-07)
 - Except for allocation changes and 2008 revision
- Descriptive, empirical and non-normative
- Multi-year, multi-national research effort
 - Mission climat at the Caisse des Dépôts and the University of Paris-Dauphine
 - MIT CEEPR and Joint Program
 - University College Dublin
 - Öko-Institut in Berlin

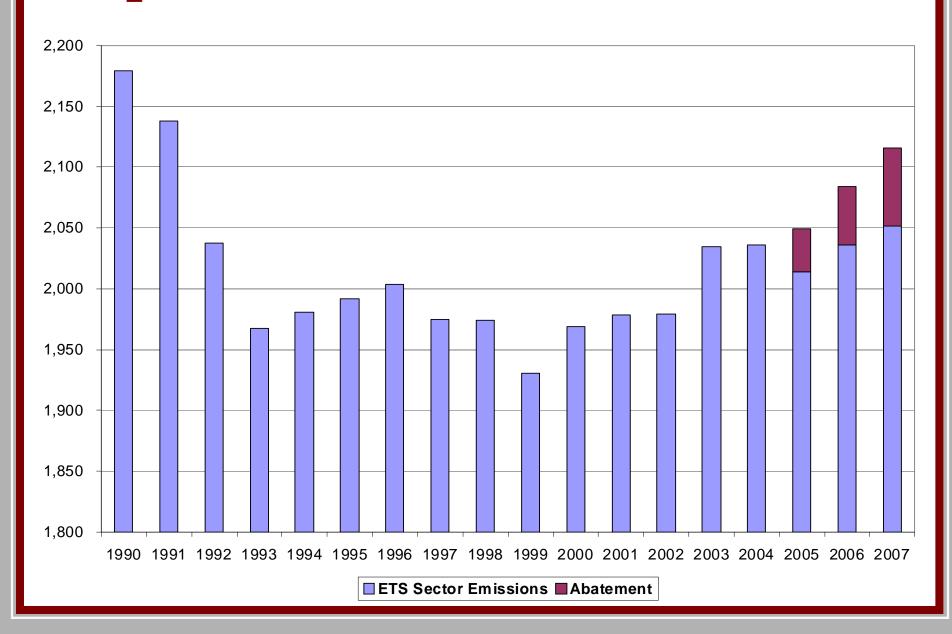
Lessons from the EU ETS

- Reaffirmation of what we know from US capand-trade systems
 - Markets emerge effortlessly
 - Emissions are reduced
 - Feared (or hoped for) side effects are few
 - But allocation is much more contentious
- Also, some useful technical lessons
 - Cap-setting and free allocation require good data
 - Upstream accountability for small sources
 - Borrowing can be allowed
- Multinational trading systems spanning great diversity can be constructed

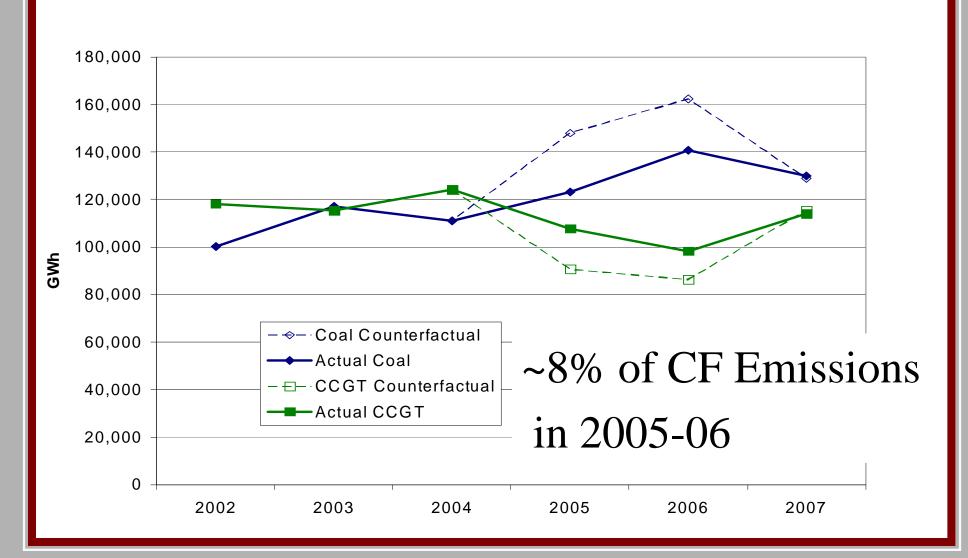
Were Emissions Reduced?

- A positive price was produced despite expost over-allocation
- ETS sector emissions flattened during 2005-07 despite relatively robust GDP growth and adverse energy price relations
- Observed only short-term abatement, mostly in power sector
- Abundant anecdotal evidence
- Modest ambition and abatement

Top-down Estimate of Abatement



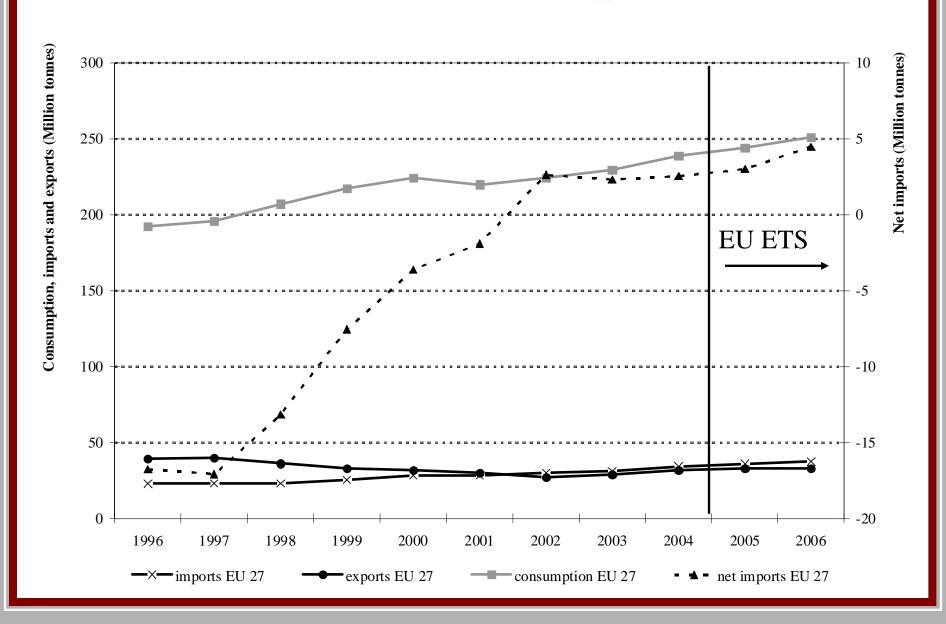
An econometric estimate of fuel switching in the UK power sector



Competitiveness Effects

- Short-term effects were predicted; <u>none</u> were observed (at least superficially)
 - Net imports, consumption, and EU production all increased
 - More a continuation of past trends than any new feature
- CO₂ is only one price among hundreds that count as much after as before
 - True for the long-term as well?

Cement as an example: EU27



Allocation: A much bigger issue than in any earlier program

- Overwhelmingly free allocation in 1st 2 periods based on historical emissions
- Dec 08 amendments established principle of free allocation phase-out
 - In response to "windfall profits" critique
 - But continuing free allocation for sectors facing international competition
- But all evidence suggests free allocation needed to get EU ETS started

The Effects of the EU ETS Extend Well Beyond the EU

- The example for others in limiting GHG emissions
- The direct stimulus to emission reductions elsewhere and to participation in carbon markets
- Establishing the feasibility of a multinational and potentially global system

A Prototype Global System?

- The EU is a (very) loose "federal" structure
- Significant differences among participating nations
 - Economic circumstance
 - Development of market institutions
 - Commitment to climate policy
- Lessons for a global system
 - A coordinating center
 - Auxiliary or "club" benefits
 - Differentiation by economic circumstance