

Policy lessons from Europe

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*Author of the Carbon Crunch: how we are getting climate change wrong
and how to fix it Yale University Press 2012*

Questions

1. What is EU energy and climate policy?
 - The internal energy market – origins, implementation and consequences
 - The climate change package – ambitions, components and consequences
 - Copenhagen, Durban, Doha and European “world leadership”
 - The 20% renewables target
 - The EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Questions (ctd)

2. What are the outcomes
 - Germany's "*Energiewende*"
 - The return of coal
 - Carbon consumption and production
3. What comes next?

What are the EU objectives?

The IEM

Competitive supply

Security
of supply

Few policy mechanisms

Low
carbon

EUETS + 2020 – 20 – 20 +
national policies

⇒ Require *simultaneous* solution to all 3 objectives

⇒ Trade-offs to be defined

The internal energy market

- Origins in the single market project
- The model – unbundling, vertical separation, regulated third party access
- The 1997 – 1998 renewed attempts
- The 2004 further attempts

Target to impose by 2014

The EU Climate Change Package

Based on the conventional view of climate change

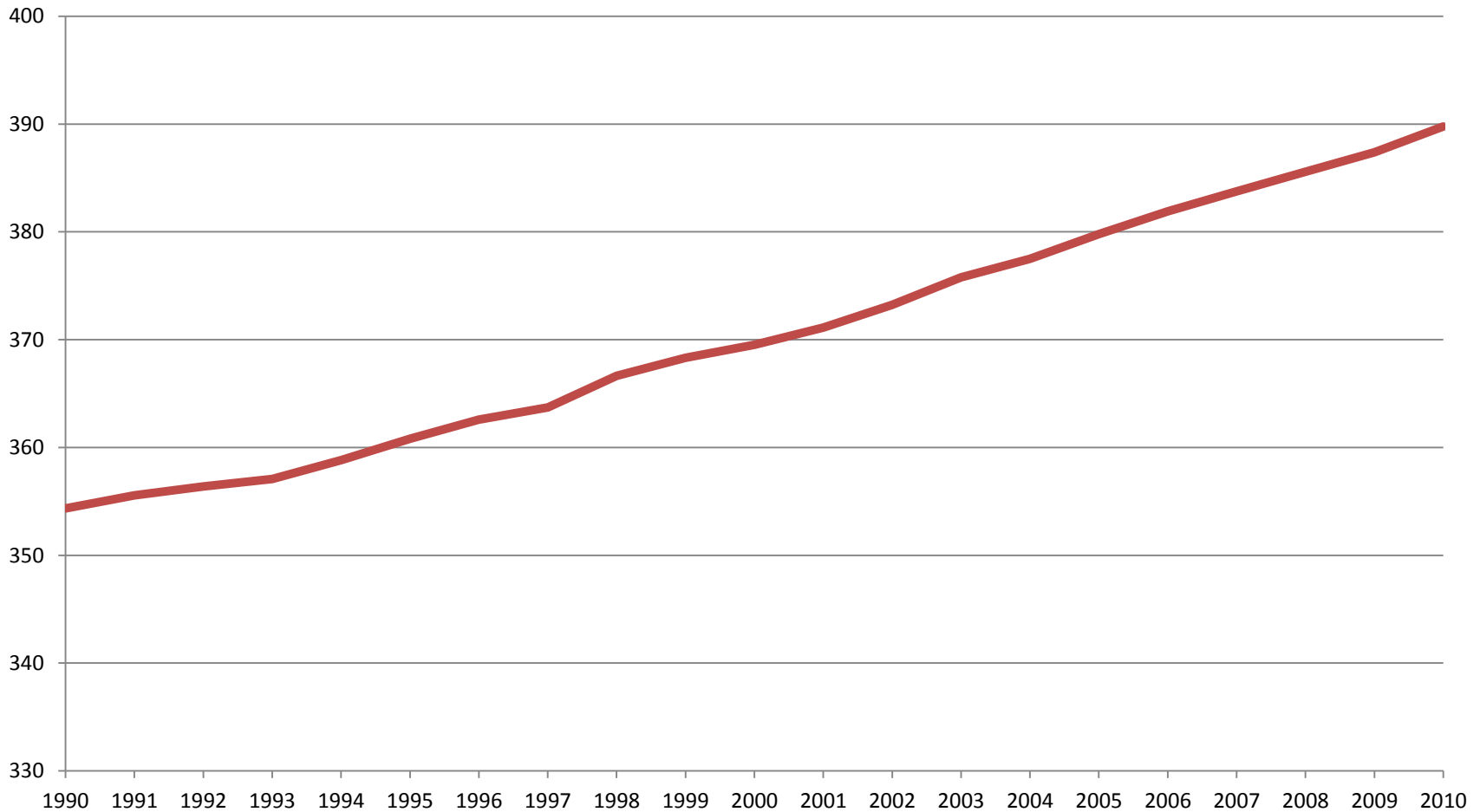
- KYOTO
 - Carbon production NOT consumption
 - Europe-driven and European leadership

But Kyoto has made little difference

- Emissions keep going up
- Why?
 - Coal, coal, coal
 - China's economic growth
- How could European meet Kyoto targets and yet increase emissions?
 - Carbon *consumption* NOT carbon *production*

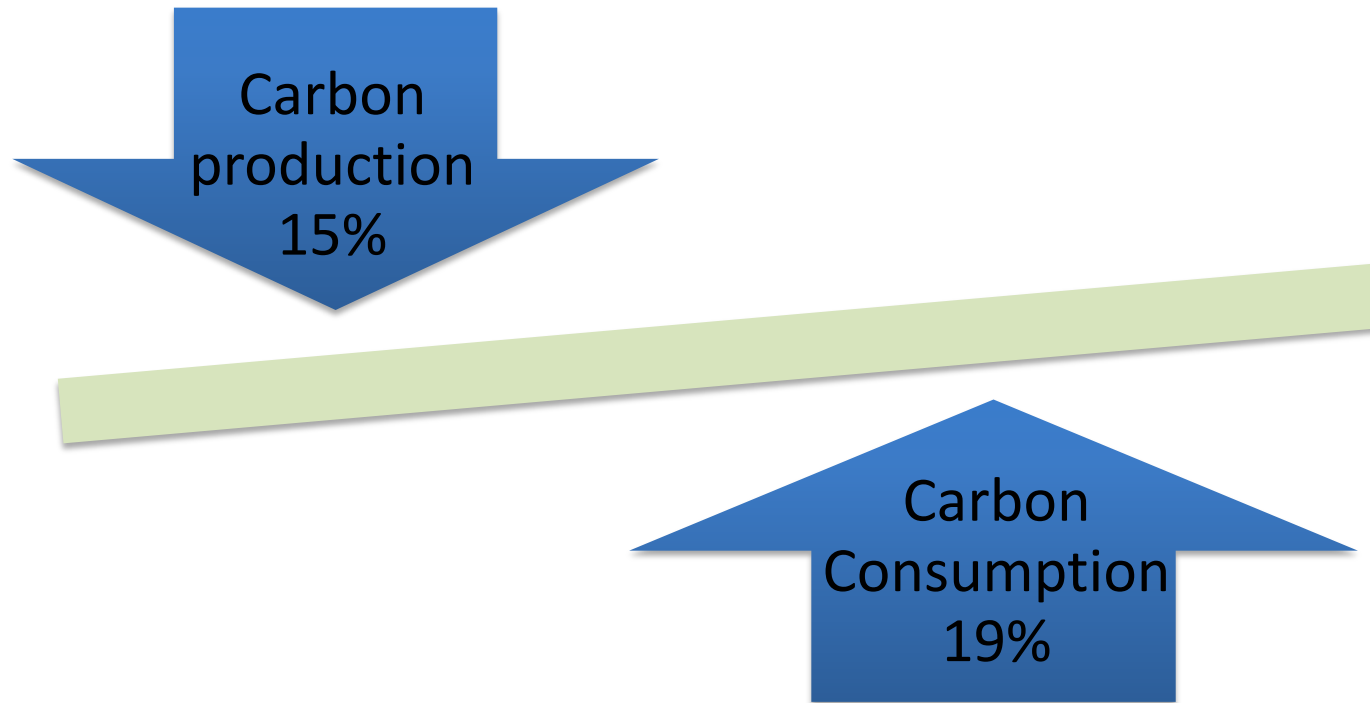
An ever-upward path

Atmospheric CO₂ (ppm)



Source: US Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Carbon production vs consumption



Europe's carbon production decrease is caused by deindustrialisation, exit from energy-intensive industries and the economic crisis

Copenhagen, Durban, Doha

- Copenhagen – a US/China deal outside Kyoto
- Durban – try to agree by 2015 what might happen after 2020
- Doha – no further serious progress

By 2020:

- CHINA X 2 GDP
- INDIA X 2 GDP
- 400-600 GWs new coal power generation

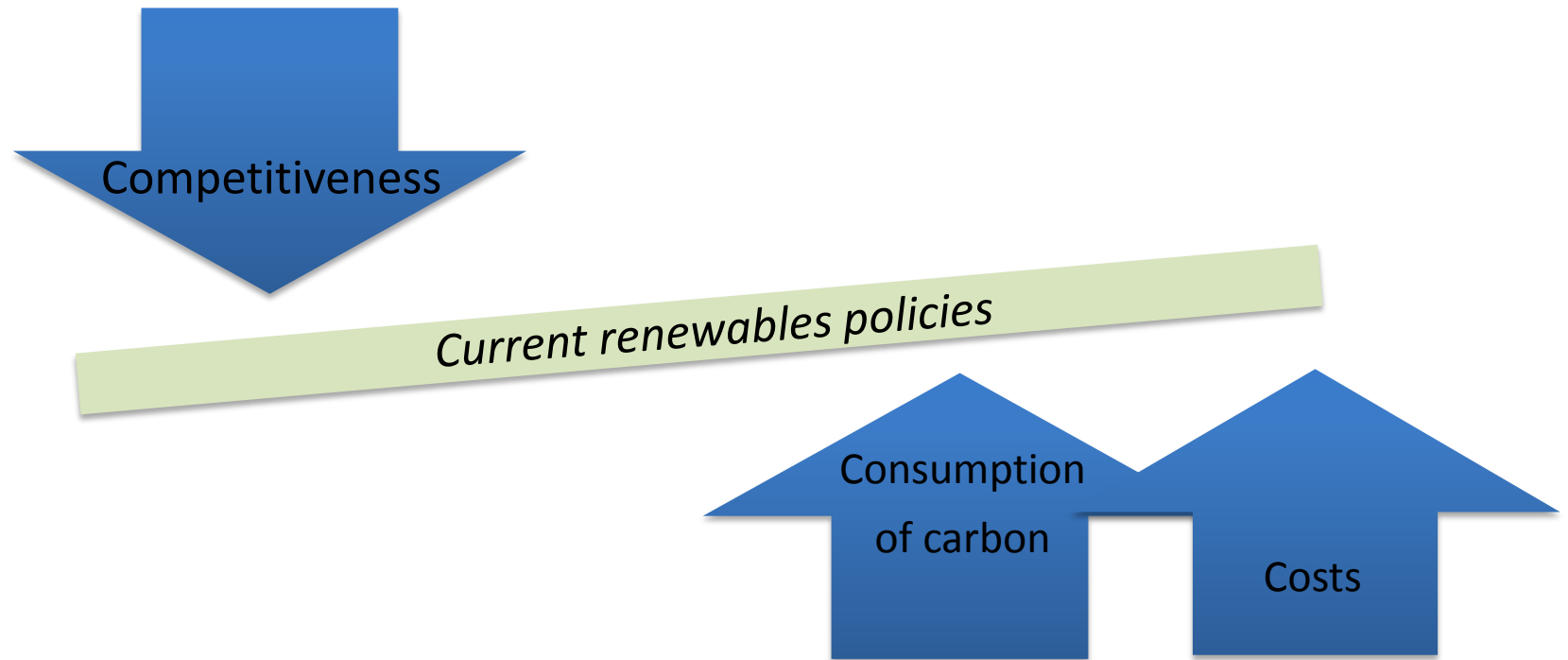
The 2020 – 20 – 20 Climate Package

- Short term answer to long term problem
- Based on *current* renewables
- Claimed to meet *competitiveness* objectives, and be *sustainable* and increase *energy security*
- Assumes EUETS works

20% Renewables target

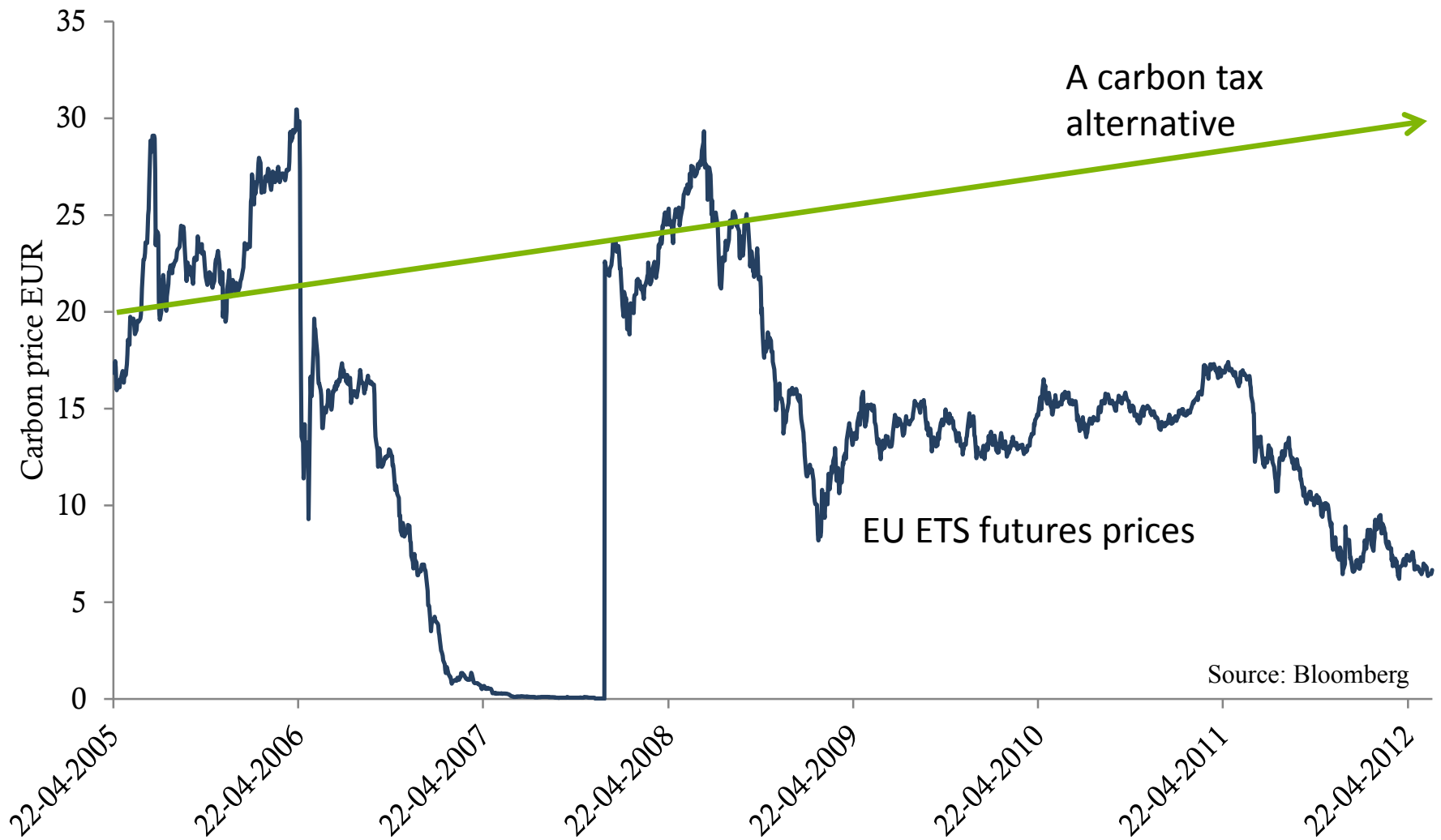
- Based on the assumption that gas and oil prices will go ever-upwards
- Short term reliance on wind, rooftop solar and biomass power generation
- Expensive:
 - UK Wholesale price \approx £50 MWh
 - Onshore wind \approx £100 MWh ++
 - Offshore wind \approx £160 MWh ++
 - Rooftop solar \approx £240 MWh ++
- Offset by EU ETS
- Offset by \uparrow carbon consumption

Europe: an unviable position



- Current renewables cannot make much difference to global climate change—land & shallow sea areas just not big enough
- Energy efficiency – good idea but does not necessarily reduce energy demand

Carbon taxes v. EU ETS



Source: Bloomberg

Germany's *Energiewende*

- Exit nuclear (→ coal)
- Switch from gas (→ coal)
- Destabilise gas

⇒ High energy prices, emissions ↑

⇒ Building new lignite coal power stations

The return of coal

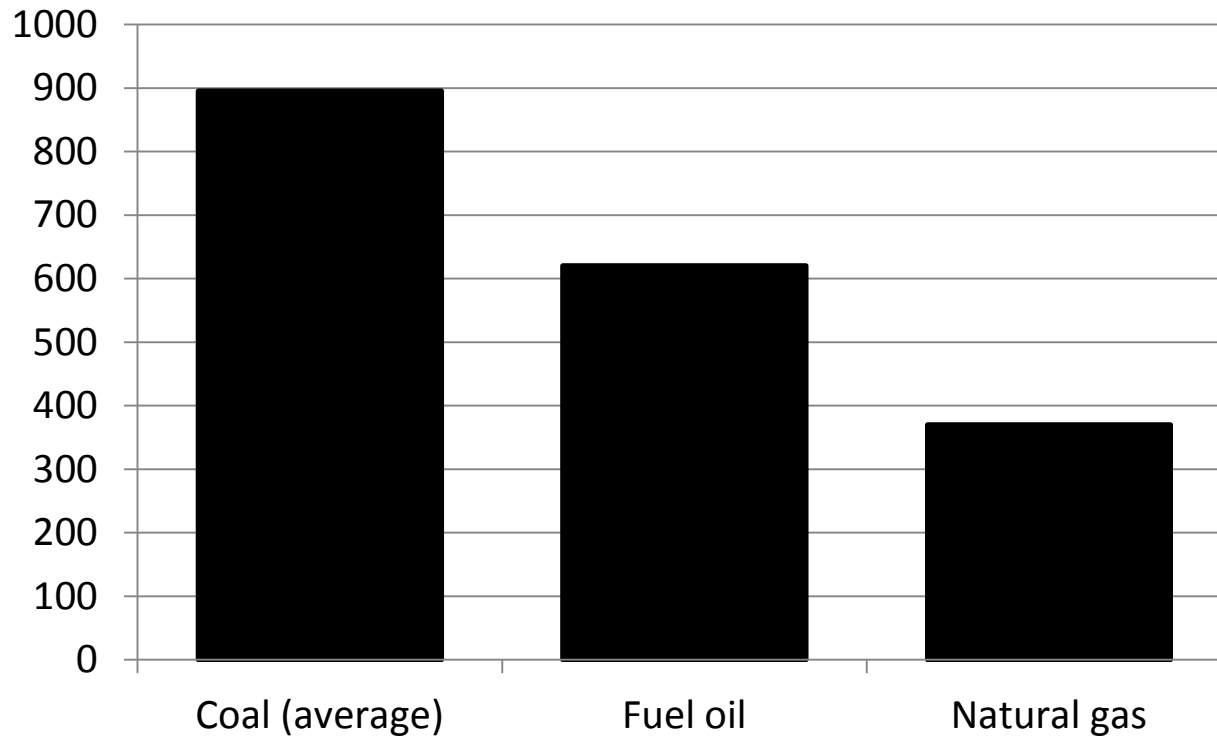


Germany + Netherlands + other interests in NEW coal

Shale gas limited or banned (Germany and France)

⇒ ↑ CO₂ emissions

Fossil fuel emissions

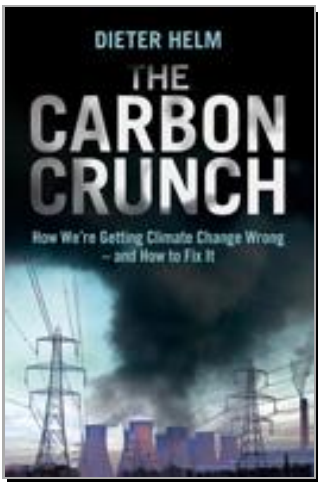


Approximate CO2 emissions: grammes of CO2 per KWh of electricity generated
Source: International Energy Agency "CO2 emissions from fuel combustion highlights 2011"

What comes next?

- 2014 European elections – a new Commission
- Energy crises in UK and potentially other countries
- Electricity price revolts by customers (voters)
- 2050 Roadmap – towards conditional targets

⇒ MAJOR POLICY RETHINK



The Carbon Crunch

How We're Getting Climate Change Wrong - and How to Fix it

Dieter Helm

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