

The differing drivers of EU Electricity Policy

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Propositions

1. The EU energy policy is growing more intricate, but not more revolutionary. Meaningful policy changes occur at a stagnating yearly rate, despite the increasing power of the EU institutions. (*Thesis Chapter 2*)
2. Unlike other energy policy priorities, which display strong connections between external factors and legislative output, environment legislation in the electricity field is rather indifferent to external factors' pressure. (*Thesis Chapter 3*)
3. With respect to the environment pillar of the electricity policy, strengthening of the legal mandate and framing of the problem seem to influence the legislative output most. To a lesser degree, political factors, and specifically the European Parliament elections, may contribute to altering environmental policies as well. (*Thesis Chapter 4*)
4. The examination of neofunctionalism versus punctuated equilibrium in explaining the trajectory of the EU electricity policy offered strong arguments for neofunctionalism to be the root of energy policy evolution, as it was possible to identify specific patterns of this theory in the legislative mapping. (*Thesis Chapter 4*)
5. Reliance on quantitative methods will help to build a body of knowledge that makes it easier to perform this kind of research, while also fuelling the development of new insights. In particular for political science fields that border on more mathematics-heavy domains, such as economics and energy, the use of quantitative methods is likely to foster deeper and more sustained understanding. (*Doctoral discipline*)
6. Measured by the annual GDP growth per capita, the link between the economic situation and environmental policy output was obvious, until 2007, when the evolution of the two became disjointed. It is a puzzle as to what happened around that year that caused the environmental policy driver to disappear. (*Doctoral discipline*)

7. Energy is a heavily regulated domain, with thousands of binding pieces of legislation at the European level requiring compliance, at all levels (production, transmission, trading, distribution, retail), and this creates significant barriers to market entry for new market participants. (*Doctoral discipline*)

8. The thesis' findings reveal the importance of public opinion in adopting new legislation. For most energy policy priorities, European policymakers are swift to embrace new legislation, adapting to new developments and resonating to the public. (*Impact of the results of the research for society*)

9. "Energy and climate change policies need not be complicated." (Helm 2014, p.35)
(*Free topic*)

10. *Doctrina perpetua!* (Forever learning) (*Free topic*)