

Can Democracies Handle the Long-Term Climate and Energy Issues? The Case of the EU

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Energy Security, Climate Change and the EU's Regulatory Policy Tools

• Short term security

- Network interruption
- War and terrorism
- Natural disasters

• Medium term security

- Efficient and fair pricing (public goods)
- Duty to supply (public service)
- Local and EU-wide pollution

• Long term security

- Import dependency (strategic commodity)
- Resilient + adaptable systems
- Sustainable (low carbon) economy
- Managing the energy transition

• Policy tools (short term)

- Network regulation and safety rules
- Oil stocks and gas storage
- Disaster management

• Policy tools (medium term)

- Competition law, SEM, ownership
- Public service provisions
- Environment law (EU and national)

• Policy tools (long term)

- SEM + external energy policy (soft power with a hard edge)
- Diversification: Renewables, energy efficiency and nuclear energy
- EU climate measures (ETS) and efforts at global leadership

The EU: Democracy and Climate Change

	Democracy: NO	Democracy: YES
CANNOT handle climate change	Depressing on both counts, but not very interesting or newsworthy	Depressing climate- wise, but confirms Jørgen's worries!
CAN handle climate change	Good climate-wise, confirms Jørgen's theory , but is it viable in times of crisis?	The European Commission's dream: Win-Win! => ???



Mostly harmless!

- **Is the EU Democratic? => power-sharing!**
 - Power-sharing in a plural polity: Inter-governmental decision-making.
 - Delegation to non-majoritarian bodies: The regulatory state.
 - Parallel politics: the member states control the energy mix.
 - **Can it handle challenges? => regulation!**
 - EU energy and climate policies are compatible with the climate agenda
 - But member states control key instruments (vetoed EU CO2-tax)
 - But the climate is a global collective action problem. => USA + BRICS?
 - **What is the relationship between the two? => tension!**
 - **The Tools:** EU regulatory competence => majoritarian, regulatory success
 - **Legitimacy:** Consensual decision making + national discretion
 - But 31 national democratic processes: different time horizons + priorities
- => Two dangers:
- 1) state policy may be incompatible with EU goals
 - 2) EU (or global!!!) policy may generate backlash

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	Democracy: NO	Democracy: YES
CANNOT handle climate change	WRONG!	28 state policies 
CAN handle climate change	EU Commission's 1990s over-optimism 	The EU regulatory state today (robust, but modest regime)

