Comparing options for addressing EUETS oversupply

This document provides summary material and charts comparing options currently under discussion for correcting the supply demand balance in the EUETS.



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There will be a large surplus by 2020, which will be largely unaffected by reform proposals, as none affect Phase 3.

• Emissions continue to be below the cap during the rest of phase 3 ...



 ...so the total surplus will be 3.8-4.4 billion tonnes by 2020 ...

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Note: emissions tracks are consistent with price projections shown on a later chart.

The surplus will grow further by 2030 under current proposals

- With current proposals annual surpluses will be generated until late in Phase 4 and possibly throughout ...
- By 2030 the MSR will contain 3-5 billion tonnes with some surplus still available to market



- Consequences of large MSR are to destabilize the market by creating uncertainty about what will happen to such large volumes –total is a quarter to half of cumulative Phase 4 cap
- Cancellation of 300 million allowances is welcome but affects total in MSR by less than 10%
- At current rates of release, all MSR volumes would only return to market around 2070
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Emissions in Phase 4 are likely to be below the cumulative cap (without the existing surplus) even if the EUETS itself leads to little abatement

• The cumulative cap over Phase 4 is at least as high as forecast emissions even without the accumulated surplus ...



• We consider it unlikely that emissions will be above our base case



Doubling MSR deduction rate for three years has little effect by 2030 because the surplus persists through Phase 4

• Increasing the rate at which allowances are placed in the MSR does not change the fundamental supply-demand balance by the end of the period ...



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 Price effect may increase surplus slightly by lowering demand, but this effect is likely small (see later chart)

Increasing the LRF to 2.4% has only a minor impact on the market before 2030

 Increasing the LRF to 2.4% only decreases the cumulative surplus in 2030 by 200Mt during Phase 4 (3-5% of cumulative surplus in 2020, 1.3% of cumulative cap for Phase 4)



• Assuming the same rates, the cumulative cap difference is over 2Bt by 2050

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Rebasing the cap has immediate impact from 2021, because it addresses the surplus at source

 A surplus is no longer being generated in Phase 4 and the existing surplus will immediately start decreasing



*Forecast 2020 emissions used as the new cap starting point

• Increasing the LRF in addition to rebasing further increased stringency.

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Because rebasing aligns to actual emissions it is robust to different outcomes over the remainder of Phase 3

• If emissions fall faster or slower than anticipated to 2020, rebasing would still ensure that the surplus does not continue to grow throughout Phase 4



• In the highly unlikely case of emissions above the cap in 2020 the existing cap would be an upper limit.

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Price impact is moderate, in part because the existing surplus provides a large cushion. Even rebasing has only a moderate impact with prices reaching the expected Phase 3 level of €30/t only around 2030.



Note: Price scenarios are indicative only, based on analysis of the supply demand balance and abatement costs. They are for the purposes of comparing reform options only.



Rebasing will increase the value of funds by up to 50% as price increases outweigh the effect of reductions in the number of allowances.

• The expected increase in the carbon price, will grow the value of funds, despite volume reduction (and there is not volume reduction from the innovation fund



• Average price over Phase 4 still averages below €30/t



