

Abstract

The main focus of the present diploma thesis are the energy policies of Germany and the United Kingdom. In the thesis, a comparative analysis of both countries' policies is carried out, focusing on their progress towards a low carbon energy sector and on the fulfillment of their respective climate pledges, such as the share of renewable sources of electricity and total emissions. The scope of the thesis is narrowed down to include above all the electricity sector and the technologies that help to reduce the energy intensity of the energy sector. The central part of the text is descriptive, comparing both the general outlines of the respective policies and the policy instruments used. The thesis largely follows the logic of comparing the different approaches to the main energy sources (nuclear, renewable, natural gas) and in part also deals with other important phenomena: CCS and EU ETS. The choice of relevant indicators and the evaluation of trends is an integral part of the thesis. The secondary goal is to attempt an evaluation of the individual instruments and policies. Among the conclusions, the following stands out: 1/ the relative success of the German nuclear phaseout as concerns supply security and the simultaneous risks it brings concerning the total emissions from energy; 2/ the relative efficacy of the UK's renewable policies after 2010, including the reformed Renewables Obligation and the subsequent Contracts for Difference; 3/ the paradox of fossil fuel (especially natural gas) support during the simultaneous move towards a low-carbon energy sector; 4/ the need for a EU ETS reform.

Keywords: energy policy, climate change, renewables, Energiewende