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RESEARCH

Compliance of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in the first commitment period

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Abstract

This article provides an ex post analysis of the compliance of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol during the first commitment period (2008-2012) based on the final data for national GHG emissions and exchanges in carbon units that became available at the end of 2015. On the domestic level, among the 36 countries that fully participated in the Kyoto Protocol, only nine countries emitted higher levels of GHGs than committed

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evel – i.e. Accept All units Essential Only and Settings nitment by vement. se, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) further removed $0.4~\rm GtCO_2e~\rm yr^{-1}$ from the net result excluding LULUCF. The hypothetical participation of the US and Canada would have reduced this overachievement by a net $1~\rm GtCO_2e~\rm yr^{-1}$. None of these factors – some of which may be deemed illegitimate – would therefore on its own have led to global noncompliance, even without use of the $0.3~\rm GtCO_2e$ of annual emissions reductions generated by the Clean Development Mechanism. The impact of domestic policies and 'carbon leakage' – neither of which is quantitatively assessed here – should not be neglected either.

Policy relevance

Given the ongoing evolution of the international climate regime and the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, we believe that there is a need to evaluate the results of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. To our knowledge there has been no overarching quantitative ex post assessment of the Kyoto Protocol based on the final emissions data for 2008–2012, which became available in late 2015. This article attempts to fill this gap, focusing on the domestic and international compliance of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in the first commitment period.

Q KEYWORDS: Carbon accounting carbon emissions trading compliance GHG emissions Kyoto Protocol

Correction Statement

This article has been republished with minor changes. These changes do not impact the academic content of the article.

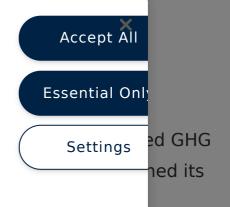
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