



Europe's Carbon Tariff Is the Right General Idea, but Doomed by Details

欧盟碳边境税：大体还可以，细节不如意

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The European Union just **unveiled** its plan to **impose** border taxes on greenhouse gas polluters as part of its effort to become **carbon neutral** by 2050. In doing so it will become the first major economic **bloc** to try to enforce good climate behavior, not just on its own industries, but also on those that would sell to the EU.

欧盟刚刚公布了对温室气体排放者征收碳边境税的计划，以推动欧盟到 2050 年实现碳中和。这样一来，欧盟将成为第一个尝试强制要求良好气候行为的主要经济体，不仅针对欧盟内部的行业，还针对那些向欧盟出售产品的行业。

The bloc does deserve **credit** for doing a better job at confronting the climate challenge than the U.S. or any other large economic bloc has. The need for action is hair-on-fire obvious. Unfortunately, the EU's action won't work.

在应对气候挑战方面，欧盟确实比美国或其他大型经济体做得更好，这值得称赞。采取行动，迫在眉睫。然而，欧盟的行动并不会奏效。

More than three decades of local and regional initiatives have shown that a **piecemeal** approach can't solve a global problem. Concerns are **well documented**. The EU itself has objected to another recent example of this fragmented approach, accusing the U.S. of unfair subsidies because of elements of the \$370-billion climate plan in the Inflation Reduction Act. The U.S. trade representative, Katherine Tai, has also already expressed concern about how the EU's border tax would affect trade with U.S. manufacturers.

30 多年来，许多地方和区域倡议都表明，零敲碎打的方法无法解决全

◇ 背景知识

EU border carbon tax

欧盟碳边境税，将在今年 10 月 1 日起实施，到时欧盟将对钢铁、水泥、铝、化肥、电力生产和氢气等诸多领域的进口商品加征碳边境税。碳边境税协议被欧洲政治家誉为“里程碑意义的气候变化协议”，这使得欧盟成为世界上首个对其进口产品征收碳边境税的贸易区。

unveil [ˌʌnˈveɪl] v. 公布，推出；

揭幕 | The club has unveiled plans to build a new stadium. 俱乐部首次披露了要建造一座新体育馆的计划。

impose [ɪmˈpəʊz] v. 推行，采用（规章制度）；迫使，把……强加于 | This system imposes additional financial burdens on many people. 这个制度给很多人增加了额外的经济负担。

carbon neutral 碳中和的，碳平衡的（指碳排放量减低为零，或通过环保措施抵消排放） | You can make your flights carbon neutral by planting trees to make up for the greenhouse gas emissions. 你可以通过种树抵消温室气体排放，这样你的飞行就可以做到碳中和。

bloc [blɑːk] n. 国家集团，阵营，

球性问题。担忧是有依据的。欧盟本身也反对另一个零散做法，它指责美国在《通胀削减法案》中 3700 亿美元气候计划的部分内容上提供不公平补贴。美国贸易代表戴琦也对欧盟的碳边境税将如何影响欧盟与美国制造商的贸易表示担忧。

The EU's plan is also **doomed** by its complexity, which invites gaming of the system, and by its pace, which is **wildly** inadequate to the climate crisis facing the planet.

欧盟的计划过于复杂，这也是它注定要失败的原因，其复杂性导致了系统的博弈，而且它的执行速度远不足以应对地球面临的气候危机。

The global community will either have to take measures **commensurate** with the threat, or our grandchildren will be **scrambling** for food in a climate the world hasn't seen in a few million years. Plenty of creatures will thrive in a world where temperatures are 2.5 to 3 degrees **Celsius** above pre-industrial levels, but humans will not be one of them.

国际社会要么必须采取与气候威胁相称的措施，要么我们的子孙后代将在史无前例的恶劣气候中争夺食物。如果气温比工业化之前的水平升高 2.5 至 3 摄氏度，许多生物将会茁壮成长，但人类不会那么好过。

What might those measures be? **Tariffs** could be a useful tool in rapidly reducing global emissions, but not if implemented piecemeal, and not if **configured** the way the EU proposes. The tariffs must be universal. Greenhouse gas emissions now can be monitored at the national level. If all nations have to meet a set target for reductions, exporters will have an incentive to **police** bad actors in their own countries, eliminating the incentive, for instance, to shift clean energy to exporting industries while continuing to use dirty fuels for home consumption.

那么应该采取哪些措施呢？关税可能是迅速减少全球温室气体排放的利器，但不能零零碎碎地执行，也不能按照欧盟提议的方式来配置。各国必须普遍征收关税。温室气体排放现在可以在国家层面进行监测。如果所有国家都必须达到既定的减排目标，出口国就会有动力监督本国的不良行

共同体

credit ['kredit] *n.* 称赞，认可 | She deserves credit for trying her best. 她尽了最大的努力，应该得到表扬。

piecemeal ['pi:smi:l] *adj.* 零敲碎打的，零散的，逐渐做成（或发生）的 | These piecemeal solutions won't work. 这些零敲碎打的解决办法不会有效。

well documented 证据充分的，有大量文件证明的 | The problem is well documented. 这个问题有很多依据。

doom [du:m] *v.* 注定（失败、死亡、毁灭等） | The plan was doomed from the start. 这个计划一开始就注定要失败。

wildly ['waɪldli] *adv.* 极其，非常；失控地，紊乱地 | The story had been wildly exaggerated. 这件事被过分地夸大了。

commensurate [kə'menʃərət] *adj.* （在大小、重要性、质量等方面）相称的，相当的 | Salary will be commensurate with experience. 薪金将会与资历相称。

scramble ['skræmbl] *v.* 争抢，争夺；爬，攀登 | More than three million fans are expected to scramble for tickets. 预计会有超过 300 万的球迷抢购门票。

Celsius ['selsiəs] *n.* 摄氏温度

tariff ['tærɪf] *n.* 关税 | The government may impose tariffs on

为者，从而打消它们将清洁能源用于出口行业，同时继续使用污染燃料供应国内消费的这种念头。

Whatever we do, we should do it soon. Thirty years after the first efforts to combat climate change, annual emissions are more than 60% higher than they were in 1990, and last year they rose by nearly 6%. **COP27** (27!) came and went without producing anything that will have a **discernible**, near-term impact on reducing emissions. Clearly, what we've been doing hasn't worked.

无论我们要做什么，我们都应该立刻行动。从首次采取措施应对气候变化到现在已经过去了 30 年，如今温室气体的年排放量比 1990 年增加了 60% 以上，去年增加了近 6%。COP27（都开了 27 次会了！）开完了，没有做出什么能对减少排放立见成效的决定。很明显，我们所做的并没有起作用。

Once we have set up global tariffs, to take effect immediately, the key becomes **enforcement**. We humans have already created the international institutions such as the World Trade Organization (which has expressed an institutional interest in dealing with climate change) and a **treaty, the Paris agreement**, that are needed to enact such a system. The World Bank could be useful as well, as an intermediary to redirect collected tariffs to the poorer nations to help them develop programs to meet targets.

一旦我们设立了全球关税并立即生效，关键就在于执行。我们已经创建了国际机构（如世界贸易组织，它已经表达了应对气候变化的制度性兴趣）和一项条约（《巴黎协定》），这些都是制定这样一个全球关税体系所需要的。世界银行也可以发挥作用，它可以作为一个中介机构，将征收的关税用于支持较贫穷的国家，帮助它们制定计划以实现目标。

The alternative is the path we're now on: Economic blocs and nations going their own way, slowly and ineffectually. The EU border carbon tax may be the first such effort, but it won't be the last. This piecemeal approach will **inevitably** inspire

imports. 政府可能要对进口货物征收关税。

configure [kən'fɪgjər] v. 配置，设定

police [pə'li:s] v. 监督，管制 | The agency was set up to police the nuclear power industry. 设立这个机构是为了监督核电工业。

COP27 《联合国气候变化框架公约》第二十七次缔约方大会

discernible [dɪ'sɜ:nəbl] adj. 看得清的，觉察得出的 | a discernible improvement in the patient's condition 病人病情的明显好转

enforcement [ɪn'fɔ:smənt] n. 执行，实施 | law enforcement 执法

treaty ['tri:ti] n. （国家之间的）条约，协定

✧ 背景知识

the Paris agreement

《巴黎协定》，是由全世界 178 个缔约方共同签署的气候变化协定，是对 2020 年后全球应对气候变化的行动作出的统一安排。《巴黎协定》的长期目标是将全球平均气温较前工业化时期上升幅度控制在 2 摄氏度以内，并努力将温度上升幅度限制在 1.5 摄氏度以内。

inevitably [ɪn'evɪtəbli] adv. 不可避免地，必然地 | Technological changes will inevitably lead to unemployment. 技术变革必然会导致失业。

retaliatory [rɪ'tæliət(ə)rɪ] adj. 报复性的，反击的 | a retaliatory attack

retaliatory polices from outside the bloc. Just maybe, the prospect of a **cascade** of border taxes, carbon tariffs and other national and regional measures will be sufficient to scare the global community into the **concerted** collective action our planet so clearly needs.

另一种选择是我们现在所走的道路：各经济体和国家各行其是，缓慢而无效。欧盟碳边境税可能是第一个这样的做法，但不会是最后一个。这种零敲碎打的做法将不可避免地引发欧盟以外国家的报复性政策。也许，一连串边境税、碳关税以及其他国家和地区措施的可能性足以令全球社会感到担忧，促使他们采取我们这个星球显然非常需要的协调一致的集体行动。

一次报复性攻击

cascade [kæ'skeɪd] *n.* 大量，许多；小瀑布；倾泻（或涌出）的东西 | The bank's collapse led to a cascade of business failures. 银行倒闭引发了一连串的商业受挫。

concerted [kənˈsɜːrtɪd] *adj.* 同心的, 联合的 | We need to make a concerted effort to improve on our results. 我们需要齐心协力才能提高我们的成绩。

► 脉络梳理

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| Para. 1-2 | 引出欧盟碳边境税计划，指出其不会奏效 |
| Para. 3-4 | 指出欧盟碳边境税存在的问题 |
| Para. 5-8 | 提出建议：建立全球关税体系等普遍措施并立即执行 |
| Para. 9 | 总结全文，指出各国各行其是解决不了问题，需要采取一致行动 |

► 长难句拆解

