Modeling Political Decisions for Sustainability

Predicting Policy Decisions: Assignment #1 (Actor Paper + Presentation) & Assignment #2 (Prediction Paper + Presentation)

Topic

Degree of permissibility of carbon removals to count towards reaching the 2040 EU net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goal(s).

Research Question

The European Union (EU) is considering its 2040 GHG reduction goal as part of the overall goal to reach net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Carbon removals may play an important role in deciding both on (i) the level of emission reductions envisioned for 2040 and (ii) the degree to which carbon removals count towards reaching the 2040 net emission goal. We concentrate on the second aspect.

Assume that the European Commission's proposal for union-wide remaining EU GHG emissions in 20240 of less than 850 Mt CO2eq will be approved.

The predictions shall answer the following question:

To which degree will the 2040 EU GHG net emission reduction goals be allowed to be met by carbon removals?

Scale	Contents
0	0 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
45	225 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
50	250 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
55	275 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
62	310 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
90	400 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)
110	450 Mt CO2eq (land-based and industrial carbon removals)

Position Scale

Simplification: We treat all carbon removals as interchangeable and sum them up.

Potential Influence Scale

t.b.d.	European Commission
100	European Parliament
100	European Council
t.b.d.	other actors

Note: Assume qualified majority voting in the European Council.

Assess other actors and actor groups in relation to the European Parliament and the European Council.

Context

Your assignment is to predict the outcome among the European institutions.

Please undertake the scoring of political actors as of mid-December 2024 (Assignment #1) and end of 2024 (Assignment #2).

Formatting for all papers

All papers shall adhere to high academic standards with sources fully documented and referenced.

Length:

- Actor Paper: **max. 1,500 words** (everything included) (all students).
- Simulation Paper: max. 2,500 words per student (group assignment for 5-6 ECTS)/max. 5,000 words (individual assignment for 9-10 ECTS) (everything included) plus the input file(s) (no need to submit the output files; input files are omitted from the word count).
- For each paper (Assignment #1 & #2): Please enclose page 2 of →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/wisofak/Dateien/Studium/informationen _f_r_studierende_plagiatssoftware_april_2014.pdf (excluded from the word count).

Formatting

- Please use the template distributed for each of the assignments. All papers list the student ID(s), the word count (everything included), and the relevant topic (title).
- Leave at least 1-inch margins on all four sides of an A4 sheet of paper.
- Use 11-12-points font for the papers (with the potential exception of formatting tables).
- Submit all files both as MS Word and PDF format (except the simulation input .txt file(s)).
- Simulation Paper: You briefly state who did what for the simulation paper (group assignment).

Presentations

- All papers will be presented. Practicalities are communicated prior to the presentation date via Open.UP.
- For the presentation files, please use MS PowerPoint, OpenOffice, or LibreOffice.
- Upload your actor paper, simulation paper, and the presentation files as well as input file(s) (simulation paper only) to Open.UP (please check for viruses beforehand).
- <u>Actor Paper & Presentation</u>: **maximum of 10 slides, up to 10 minutes presentation** of the actor paper, followed by up 10 minutes of Q&A.
- <u>Simulation Paper & Presentation:</u> maximum of 20 slides, up to 20 minutes of presentation, and up to 20 minutes of Q&A.

Submission

All actor papers have to be submitted to →Open.UP by 18 Dec. 2024, 14:00h CET. Every hour delay will reduce the grade by 1/3 of a full grade, e.g., 2.0 instead of 1.7.

- The presentation files for the actor papers have to be submitted to →Open.UP by 18 Dec. 2024, 20:00h CET. Every hour delay will reduce the grade by 1/3 of a full grade, e.g., 2.0 instead of 1.7.
- The presentation files for the simulation paper shall be submitted to →Open.UP by 08 Jan. 2025, 18:00h CET. Every hour delay will reduce the grade by 1/3 of a full grade, e.g., 2.0 instead of 1.7.
- All simulation papers have to be submitted to →Open.UP by 19 Jan. 2025, 23:59h CET. Every day delay will reduce the grade by 1/3 of a full grade, e.g., 2.0 instead of 1.7.

For additional rules, please check the most recent syllabus.

Questions?

■ Please post your question on →Open.UP under "assignments."