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# **Unilateral Phase‑Out of Coal to Power in an Emissions Trading Scheme**

**Thomas Eichner1 · Rüdiger Pethig2**

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# **Abstract**

We investigate the displacement effects of unilateral phase-out-of-coal policies in a stylized two-country model with coal- and gas-fred electricity generation in an international emissions trading scheme. In the basic policy scenario, electricity markets are national and one country bans coal while the emissions cap remains unchanged. The allocative displacement efects are strongly asymmetric: the coal-banning country sufers a welfare loss, the other country is better of, and aggregate welfare declines. Furthermore, the permit price decreases, while the electricity price rises in the unilaterally acting country and declines in the other country. If all countries would phase out coal, the efects would be symmetric and all countries would lose. We then extend the analysis to the cases (i) when the unilateral coal ban is combined with a moderate cut of the emissions cap (as recently suggested in an EU Directive) and (ii) when we allow for international trade in electricity. Compared to the basic unilateral policy, in these cases, the total welfare costs tend to be smaller and some tend to be shifted from the unilaterally acting country to the other one.

**Keywords** Unilateral · Phase-out · Coal · Gas · Electricity · ETS

**JEL classifcation** H22 · Q37 · Q48

# **1 Introduction**

To prevent carbon emissions from exceeding the carbon budget implied by the ambitious climate target of the Paris agreement, large deposits of fossil energy resources must remain untapped (McGlade and Ekins [2015\)](#page-29-0). Coal deposits, in particular, need

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to be left in the ground, because these are the most emissions-intensive fossil energy resources. This view is supported by the IPCC ([2018](#page-29-1), p. 16) in their special report on "Global Warming of 1.5° C", where they discuss four illustrative pathways of emissions reductions with diferent projected changes in primary energy from fossil energy resources in 2030 relative to 2010. Averaged across these pathways, the change required in primary energy from coal, gas, and oil is about minus  $71\%$ , plus  $6\%$ , and plus  $8\%$ , respectively.

To date, many countries have been producing a large share of their electricity from coal. In the EU, about 15% of the fossil energy resources used for generating electricity are still coal resources (Agora Energiewende and Sandbag [2020](#page-28-0), p. 10), and many EU citizens and environmental groups are concerned about their governments' reluctance regarding, or exessively slow pace of phasing out coal. Recently, the European Union adopted the so-called 'European Green Deal' (European Commission [2019](#page-29-2)) which contains a call for the rapid phase-out of coal. However, the impression we get from the intensive public discussion about phasing out coal-based electricity generation is that there are policymakers, media and even economists who lack a clear understanding of the impact of the phaseout policy when performed in an international ETS, such as the EU ETS, which is characterized by the interaction of climate policies at national levels and that of the EU. As is well-known, reducing emissions cost-efectively requires a uniform carbon price, and a well-designed ETS accomplishes that for the emissions covered by the ETS. However, if the ETS contains coal- and gas-fred power plants and coal is phased out by command and control, the (shadow) emissions price is no longer uniform. Our paper aims to identify the distortions that such second-best phase-out policies generate in the markets for electricity and permits, and to assess the resulting impact on the countries' welfare.

In a simple static two-country model, we analyze phase-out policies when electricity from coal and natural gas is generated under the umbrella of an ETS. Our crucial and indeed realistic assumption is that the costs of electricity from gas exceed those from coal and, that the emissions intensity of electricity from coal exceeds that from gas. Both countries are price takers on the markets for electricity and permits, and these markets clear both endogenously and simultaneously.

Our emphasis is on unilateral phase-out-of-coal policies that involve efects on both efficiency and distribution. In the basic policy scenario (Scenario 1) with national electricity markets, the emissions cap remains unchanged such that the ban of coal obviously has no efect on the level of climate change, because aggregate emissions are fxed. If emissions decrease in one country, they necessarily increase in the other country by the same amount. This so-called waterbed effect has been studied before in various settings and also occurs when coal is unilaterally phased out, but this is not at the center of our analysis. We focus on the policies' distortionary efects on prices, on demands and supplies and especially on the countries' welfare. To the best of our knowledge, these efects have not yet been rigorously analyzed. We determine their signs analytically and illustrate the equilibria of the markets for permits and electricity before and after the phase-out. The sum of consumer and producer rents is our indicator of consumption welfare that we use to determine the welfare changes induced by the policy.

It should not come as a surprise that the unilateral phase-out of coal in Scenario 1 reduces the consumption welfare of the group of ETS countries, as all phase-out policies do, because such policies imply non-uniform (shadow) emissions prices and therefore violate cost-efectiveness. Scenario 1 is shown to exhibit strong asymmetric distributional efects. The country that bans coal unilaterally sufers a welfare loss and the other country is better of. Furthermore, the electricity price rises in the unilaterally acting country and declines in the other country, and the permit price decreases, which is defnitively the wrong price signal when high emissions cause excessive climate damage.

We seek to deepen insight into the efects of a unilateral ban of coal in Scenario 1 by modifying the analytical framework in two diferent ways. First we replace the strong assumption of a constant emissions cap by considering a policy that consists of a combination of unilateral coal phase-out and moderate tightening of the emissions cap (Scenario 2). Such a policy mix is suggested in a recent revision of the EU ETS Directive (Directive EU 2018/410) which provides coal banning countries with the option to cancel permits from their auction volume to prevent the decline in their permit demand from increasing the use of these permits in the other ETS countries. If a coal banning country makes use of the option provided in the directive, it essentially tightens the emissions cap of the EU ETS and thus implements a mixed policy that combines the phase-out of coal with some tightening of the cap. This policy mix (Scenario 2) turns out to reduce both climate damage and consumption welfare in both countries. When the emissions cap is fxed (Scenario 1), the signs of the other comparative-static efects are all diferent in the unilaterally acting country from those in the other countries. When the emissions cap is tightened (Scenario 2), the permit price increases and all other efects exhibit the same sign for all countries. These diferences suggest that the distributional efects of a unilateral coal ban are much stronger in Scenario 1 than in Scenario 2.

Our second modifcation of the analytical framework is to replace the national electricity markets in Scenarios 1 and 2 with an international market for electricity. In Europe, there is some transboundary trade in electricity, but the cross-border infrastructure is inappropriate and price convergence is partial (European Commission [2017](#page-29-3)). Therefore, we replace the polar assumption of no trade with the opposite polar assumption of free trade and thus delineate the range of outcomes expected in semi-international electricity markets. In line with the familiar proposition that opening borders creates 'gains from trade', our results indicate that the trade in electricity has a smoothening efect and shifts to the other country a share of the welfare loss that accrues to the coal-banning country in Scenario 1.

Our paper is related to the literature that studies the impact of climate policies in the presence of diferent carbon sources, and to the environmental federalism literature. In closed economies, Chakravorty et al. ([2008\)](#page-28-1) and van der Ploeg and Withagen (2012) study the optimal extraction of diferent non-renewable resources in dynamic models with a ceiling and a carbon tax, respectively. Coulomb and Henriet [\(2018](#page-28-2)) elaborate the distributional impacts of optimal carbon taxation in a dynamic model with coal and gas.

Turning to environmental federalism, Oates and Schwab ([1988\)](#page-29-4) and Ogawa and Wilda- $\sin(2009)$  $\sin(2009)$  $\sin(2009)$  show, in one-resource models with local and global pollution,<sup>[1](#page-3-0)</sup> respectively, that decentralized policymaking is efficient when countries are small and take market prices as given. Santore et al. [\(2001](#page-29-6)) introduce a federal ETS that overlaps with state-level emissions taxes, and point out that strategic permit-price manipulation of state-level regulators leads to an inefficient allocation. Finally, Verbon and Withagen  $(2010)$  $(2010)$  elaborate that efficiency can be restored by an appropriate initial distribution of permits that exactly neutralizes the harmful permit-price manipulation.

In open economies, Fischer and Salant ([2017\)](#page-29-8) study diferent unilateral and global climate policies in a model with multiple resource pools with diferent extraction costs to keep the temperature increase below 2° C. Daubanes et al. [\(2021](#page-28-3)) examine the strategy of

<span id="page-3-0"></span>An appraisal of the early environmental federalism literature is provided by Cropper and Oates ([1992\)](#page-28-4).

an open economy aimed at reducing its carbon emissions by replacing the consumption of coal with gas, and show that the country's unilateral emission reduction may ultimately increase global carbon emissions. Our paper also focusses on the unilateral substitution of coal with gas, but to the best of our knowledge, is the frst to analyze the phase-out of coal by one country in an EU-type international ETS. When one country phases out coal, coalbased electricity may increase in other countries, and permits and emissions shift to the other countries. The former phenomenon is known as leakage and the latter as the waterbed effect. Leakage is well known in the context of carbon regulation (see e.g. Daubanes et al. 2017, Garella and Trentinaglia [2019](#page-29-9) and Klaushal and Rosendahl [2020](#page-29-10)). Waterbed effects have recently received attention in studying the EU ETS (Perino [2018,](#page-29-11) Eichner and Pethig ([2019a\)](#page-29-12) and Pahle et al. [2019,](#page-29-13) Hamaguchi [2020\)](#page-29-14). It is worth mentioning that the present paper focusses mainly on the substitution between coal and gas, whereas substitution between fossil fuels and a renewable resource in an EU ETS has been tackled by Jarke and Perino [\(2017](#page-29-15)) and Eichner and Pethig [\(2019a\)](#page-29-12).

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section [2](#page-4-0) sets up a stylized two-country model of electricity generation by means of natural gas and coal and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  regulation. Section [3](#page-7-0) analyzes the allocative displacement efects in the basic unilateral phase-out-of-coal policy (Scenario 1) and compares it with all countries phasing out coal. Section [4](#page-12-0) extends Scenario 1 in two directions: It first analyzes a policy that combines the unilateral phaseout of coal with a specifc cut of the emissions cap (Scenario 2) and then reconsiders Scenarios 1 and 2 with the national electricity markets being replaced by a common international electricity market. Section [5](#page-16-0) concludes.

# <span id="page-4-0"></span>**2 The Model: An International ETS with Generation of Electricity from Coal and Gas**

*The Markets for Permits and Electricity.* We consider a two-country economy, in which each country  $i = A, B$  produces electricity in power plants fired either by coal (*c*-electricity) or by natural gas (*g*-electricity). The production of *yhi* units of *h*-electricity generates  $e_h = v_h y_{hi}$  units of carbon emissions,  $h = c, g, i = A, B$ , where the emissions intensities satisfy  $v_c > v_g > 0$ . That *c*-electricity is more emissions-intensive than *g*-electricity is a welldocumented empirical fact (MacKay and Stone [2013](#page-29-16), p. 4f., Daubanes et al. [2021](#page-28-3)). The diference between the emissions intensities turn out to be crucial for the efects of banning coal.

Carbon emissions from all electricity-generating sectors are regulated in an emissions trading scheme<sup>[2](#page-4-1)</sup> (ETS) that is jointly operated by countries  $A$  and  $B$ . The emissions cap  $\bar{e}$   $>$  0 puts an upper bound on total emissions and is assumed to be binding. In formal terms, the ETS constraint is given by

<span id="page-4-2"></span>
$$
v_c(y_{cA} + y_{cB}) + v_g(y_{gA} + y_{gB}) = \bar{e}.
$$
 (1)

Electricity frms have to cover their emissions by emission allowances, simply referred to as permits, that are auctioned at price  $q$ . They take the electricity price  $p_i$  and the permit price *q* as given and maximize with respect to  $y_{hi}$  the profit  $\pi_{hi} = p_i y_{hi} - K^h(y_{hi}) - q v_h y_{hi}$ ,

<span id="page-4-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In practice, several industries producing electricity-intensive final goods are also covered by many ETSs, notably by the EU ETS.

where  $K^h(y_h)$  are production costs satisfying<sup>3</sup>  $K^h_{y_i} > 0$  and  $K^h_{y_i} > 0$ . The first-order conditions  $p_i - K_y^h - qv_h = 0$  readily yield the electricity supply functions<sup>[4](#page-5-1)</sup>

<span id="page-5-5"></span>
$$
y_{hi} = S^h(p_i, q)
$$
 with  $S^h_{p_i} > 0$  and  $S^h_q < 0$   $h = c, g; i = A, B.$  (2)

The trade in electricity is assumed to be perfectly competitive as in Fischer and Preonas ([2010\)](#page-29-17) and Novan [\(2017](#page-29-18)). That is, the wholesale electricity prices are assumed to be fully and immediately passed through to retail consumers. The choice between modelling national electricity markets or a single international market is difficult, since it is unclear which of these assumptions is more realistic.

In practice electricity markets are very complex, not least with regard to their interconnectedness. Over the years, the EU stepped up its efforts to integrate formerly barely connected national electricity markets, and made progress through market coupling and investments in cross-border interconnections. Currently, electricity is traded among Member States with most exports and imports fuctuating "… in a narrow range of 10% of the total domestic generation" (European Commission [2017](#page-29-3), p. 13). That speaks for assuming a single (perfectly competitive) electricity market. However, diferences across Member States in wholesale and retail electricity prices across the EU are signifcant (European Commission [2017\)](#page-29-3) and price convergence is only partial, not least because of inappropriate cross-border infrastructure, coordination and cooperation. These arguments point in the direction of national electricity markets.

To cope with the partially integrated empirical electricity markets, we will derive all results for national electricity markets in Sect. [3](#page-7-0) and [4.1](#page-12-1), and in Sect. [4.2](#page-14-0) for an international electricity market. Accordingly, we now proceed with two national electricity markets with the equilibrium conditions

<span id="page-5-3"></span><span id="page-5-2"></span>
$$
y_{ci} + y_{gi} = x_i \qquad i = A, B,
$$
\n<sup>(3)</sup>

where  $x_i$  is the demand for electricity (of either kind) in country *i*. To complete the description of the model, we defne the countries' electricity demand function

$$
x_i = D(p_i) \quad \text{with} \quad D_{p_i} < 0 \qquad i = A, B. \tag{4}
$$

The equations in  $(1)$  $(1)$ – $(4)$  $(4)$  contain nine equations that determine the nine endogenous variables  $y_{cA}$ ,  $y_{cB}$ ,  $y_{gA}$ ,  $y_{gB}$ ,  $x_A$ ,  $x_B$ ,  $p_A$ ,  $p_B$  and  $q$ . In its most compact form, this system of equations is reduced to the three market equilibrium conditions

<span id="page-5-4"></span>
$$
S^{c}(p_{i}, q) + S^{g}(p_{i}, q) = D(p_{i}) \qquad i = A, B,
$$
\n(5)

$$
v_c[S^c(p_A, q) + S^c(p_B, q)] + v_g[S^g(p_A, q) + S^g(p_B, q)] = \bar{e}
$$
 (6)

which determine the prices  $p_A$ ,  $p_B$  and  $q$ . Since all three equilibrium conditions depend on the permit price *q*, the markets for electricity and the permit market are interdependent and therefore need to clear simultaneously. The well-known normative property of an equilibrium satisfying [\(5\)](#page-5-3) and [\(6\)](#page-5-4) is that the emissions cap is implemented at minimum cost (presupposing that it is less than the aggregate emissions in the laissez-faire economy).

<span id="page-5-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Upper-case letters represent functions and subscripts attached to them indicate partial derivatives.

<span id="page-5-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The properties of the function  $S^h(p_i, q)$  are derived in Appendix A.

In order to assess the impact of the phase-out-of-coal policies to be analyzed below, we define country *i*'s welfare,  $w_i$ , as the difference between its consumption welfare,  $u_i$ , and climate damage,  $5.6 H(\bar{e})$  $5.6 H(\bar{e})$  $5.6 H(\bar{e})$  $5.6 H(\bar{e})$ ,

<span id="page-6-4"></span><span id="page-6-3"></span>
$$
w_i = u_i - H(\bar{e}).\tag{7}
$$

Consumption welfare  $u_i$  consists of the sum of consumer surplus  $\int_0^{x_i} P(z) dz_i - p_i x_i + q(v_c y_{ci} + v_g y_{gi})$  and producer surplus (= profits)  $\pi_{ci} + \pi_{gi}$ , where  $P(x_i)$ is the inverse of the electricity demand function  $D(p_i)$  from ([4](#page-5-2)). Thus, consumption welfare is given by

$$
u_i = \int_0^{x_i} P(z)dz_i - K^c(y_{ci}) - K^g(y_{gi}) \qquad i = A, B.
$$
 (8)

*The allocative impact of changes in the emissions cap*. In our investigation of phase-out policies in the next sections, we supplement the comparative-statics with graphical analyses of the allocative displacement efects in the markets for permits and electricity. It is therefore useful to prepare for this analysis by illustrating the joint market equilibria and their dependence on the size of the emissions cap. Exploiting symmetry, it is convenient to drop the subscripts *i*, *A* and *B* throughout in ([5](#page-5-3)) and [\(6\)](#page-5-4), which yields the simplifed equi-librium conditions<sup>[7](#page-6-2)</sup>

$$
S^{c}(p,q) + S^{g}(p,q) = D(p) \text{ and } 2v_{c}S^{c}(p,q) + 2v_{g}S^{g}(p,q) = \bar{e}.
$$
 (9)

Suppose the prices  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  satisfy the two equations in ([9](#page-6-3)) when the emissions cap  $\bar{e} = \bar{e}_0$  is given. Then point  $S_0$  in the right-hand side panel of Fig. [1](#page-7-1) illustrates the equilibrium in the electricity market if we make the assignments  $C_0D_0\hat{=}S^g(p,q_0)$ ,  $E_0F_0 \triangleq S^c(p, q_0) + S^g(p, q_0)$ ,  $GH \triangleq D(p)$ , (while disregarding the dashed curve  $E_1F_1$ ). Next, we tighten the emissions cap from  $\bar{e}_0$  to  $\bar{e}_1 < \bar{e}_0$  and describe the transition to the new joint equilibrium as follows. At the initial equilibrium prices  $(p_0, q_0)$ , the electricity markets are still in equilibrium, but the permit market now has excess demand. We leave *q* unchanged and decrease *p* until the supply of electricity has declined so much that the permit market equilibrium is restored. In Fig. [1](#page-7-1), that change corresponds to a move from point  $S_0$  to point  $\tilde{S}$ , and we denote the associated electricity generation by  $y_1 = \tilde{y}_c + \tilde{y}_g < y_0$ . In order to eliminate the disequilibrium in the electricity market without disturbing the equilibrium in the permit market, we combine increases in  $p$  with increases of  $q$  such that the electricity supply  $y_1$  remains unchanged. We continue changing the prices in that way until we reach  $p_1 > p_0$  and  $q_1 > q_0$ , such that  $S^c(p_1, q_1) + S^g(p_1, q_1) = y_1 = x_1 = D(p_1)$  $S^c(p_1, q_1) + S^g(p_1, q_1) = y_1 = x_1 = D(p_1)$  $S^c(p_1, q_1) + S^g(p_1, q_1) = y_1 = x_1 = D(p_1)$ . In Fig. 1, these price changes correspond to a move from point  $\tilde{S}$  to point  $S_1$ . The aggregate electricity

<span id="page-6-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Burning natural gas and especially coal causes local air pollution in addition to climate damage. See e.g. Pittel and Rübbelke [\(2017](#page-29-19)), Holland et al. [\(2018](#page-29-20)) and Fell et al. [\(2019](#page-29-21)). For reasons of tractability, we do not consider such ancillary pollution damage.

<span id="page-6-1"></span><sup>6</sup> It is unnecessary to specify the properties of the damage function *H*. If the phase-out policy leaves the emissions cap  $\bar{e}$  unchanged, the welfare change equals the change in consumption welfare; if that policy is combined with a change in the cap, the change in climate damage is the same in both countries.

<span id="page-6-2"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> We cannot make use of this simplification when we later analyze unilateral phase-out policies that create asymmetries between countries which have been assumed to be symmetric ex ante.



<span id="page-7-1"></span>**Fig. 1** Joint equilibrium of the markets for electricity and permits, depending on the size of the emissions cap

supply curve passing through the new equilibrium point  $S_1$  is given by the dashed curve  $E_1F_1 \triangleq S^c(p_1, q_1) + S^g(p_1, q_1)$  so that equations ([9](#page-6-3)) are satisfied in  $S_1$  for  $\bar{e} = \bar{e}_1$ ,  $p = p_1$  and  $q = q_1$ . The inverse relationship between the emissions cap and the equilibrium electricity price is proved in Appendix A and illustrated in the left-hand panel of Fig. [1](#page-7-1). In sum, reducing the emissions cap increases the permit price, the increase then shifts the aggregate electricity supply curve to the left, and that shift increases the electricity price.

For the subsequent analysis of phase-out policies, it is useful to answer the question of how the mix of *c*- and *g*-electricity will change if an initial lax emissions cap  $\bar{e}_0$  is successively tightened. Since reducing the cap raises the permit price, and the emissions intensity of electricity is higher in the *c*- than in the *g*-electricity sector, payments for emissions become higher in the former than in the latter. This makes *c*-electricity less competitive and we prove in Appendix A that the share of *g*-electricity in the electricity mix increases. It follows that there is an emissions cap  $\tilde{\tilde{e}}$  smaller than  $\tilde{e}_0$ , such that no *c*-electricity is generated anymore, if  $\bar{e} < \tilde{e}$ . Under these conditions that appear to be realistic, the *cost-effective* policy of phasing out coal in an ETS with an initial emissions cap  $\bar{e}$   $> \tilde{e}$  is to reduce the cap from  $\bar{e}$  to  $\tilde{e}$ . As an implication, any phase-out of coal by regulation other than through tightening the cap is cost-inefective. Our subsequent analysis seeks to specify the inefectiveness of command-and-control phase-out policies with the focus on unilateral policies.

#### <span id="page-7-0"></span>**3 Unilateral policy of phasing out coal**

A broad consensus among climate researchers is that the current mitigation efort is insuffcient to achieve the Paris climate goal. The uniform worldwide carbon price (here in the form of a permit price) necessary for the cost-efective implementation of the Paris climate goal is estimated at about 65  $\frac{\epsilon}{t \cos}$  by 2020 and rising to 85  $\frac{\epsilon}{t \cos}$  by 2030 (Stiglitz and Stern [2017](#page-29-22)). In contrast, the permit price in the EU-ETS in November 2020 has been about 25  $\frac{\epsilon}{t \cos}$ . If the EU were to tighten the emissions cap so strongly that the permit price rises to 65  $\frac{\epsilon}{t \cos \theta}$  or even to 85  $\frac{\epsilon}{t \cos \theta}$ , the generation of *c*-electricity would presumably be unproftable and therefore be phased out, without further regulatory measures on the part of governments.

Policymakers correctly expect phasing out coal via tightening the emissions cap to increase the prices of electricity and permits. They prefer low prices via lax emissions

<span id="page-8-2"></span>

† holds if the function  $K^g$  is quadratic and  $v^c > 2v_g$ 

caps for political-economic reasons such as myopia or concern for low income groups that would be hit hard by high electricity prices ('energy poverty') or concern for industries that would face higher costs and become less competitive in the world market. Although concerned citizens and environmental groups are increasingly pressing for tougher climate policies, they do not necessarily endorse price-increasing policies either. Thus, a politically feasible compromise would be to keep the emissions cap lax and 'toughen' the climate policy by banning the generation of *c*-electricity via government directive or legislation. The questionable 'rationale' is that *c*-electricity is 'dirtier' than *g*-electricity and should therefore be phased out frst. An interesting case in point is how the emissions cap of the EU-ETS has been set in the past. The center (EU Commission) lacked the necessary consent of the Member States to implement the cost-efective phase-out-of-coal policy, which is to tighten the cap as described at the end of the previous section.<sup>[8](#page-8-0)</sup> Some EU-countries, which would have favored a more stringent emissions cap, turned to making plans - or have already taken action - to phase out the generation of *c*-electricity in a command and control fashion.

In what follows, we investigate the impact of such a unilateral policy in our two-country economy of the previous section. Analytically, country *A*'s ban of *c*-electricity is treated as a sequence of small reductions in its *c*-electricity output.<sup>[9](#page-8-1)</sup> Appendix B contains the associated comparative statics and the results are summarized in

<span id="page-8-3"></span>**Proposition 1** *Suppose the initial equilibrium of the two-country economy is characterized by a mix of c- and g-electricity, and country A unilaterally phases out the generation of electricity from coal, while the emissions cap remains unchanged. If the convexity of function K<sup>c</sup>* is sufficiently weak, the associated comparative-static effects are as presented in *Table* [1.](#page-8-2)

According to Proposition [1](#page-8-3), the readjustments on the markets for permits and electricity create various asymmetric changes and inefficiencies. Figure [2](#page-9-0) is useful for understanding the economic drivers of the reallocation. The solid curves are the same as in Fig. [1](#page-7-1), so that the intersection point  $S_0$  illustrates the initial symmetric equilibrium with prices  $(p_0, q_0)$ in both panels of Fig. [2.](#page-9-0) It is characterized by  $y_{h0} := y_{h0} = S^h(p_0, q_0) > 0$  for  $h = c, g$ ,

<span id="page-8-0"></span> $8$  The European Green Deal of the European Commission [\(2019](#page-29-2)) acknowledges the need for effective carbon pricing, but that will not be easy to accomplish, given the poor pricing record of the past (within and across countries).

<span id="page-8-1"></span><sup>9</sup> More specifcally, country *A*'s ban of coal is considered as a concatenation of infnitely many marginal reductions  $dy_{cA}$  < 0 of its *c*-electricity output. As long as the sign of a comparative static effect remains unchanged, the associated displacement efect holds, not only for a marginal out-put reduction, but also for the transition towards a full ban of coal.



<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Readjustments in electricity markets after country *A*'s unilateral ban of coal (Scenario 1)

 $i = A, B, D(p_0) = x_0 = y_0 := y_{c0} + y_{g0}$  and  $\bar{e}_0 = 2[v_c y_{c0} + v_g y_{g0}]$ . Next we decompose the transition from the initial equilibrium to the new one of all markets after the implementation of the phase-out policy, by means of Fig. [2](#page-9-0) in three successive steps.

(i) Suppose first that the prices  $(p_0, q_0)$  remain unchanged after the ban of *c*-electricity in *A*. Then, the electricity market equilibrium in *B* is still given by point  $S_0$  in the right panel of Fig. [2](#page-9-0). However, in *A* the ban generates excess demand for electricity that is illustrated by the move from  $S_0$  to  $\tilde{S}_1$  in the left panel of Fig. [2.](#page-9-0) Since  $v_c > v_g$ , it obviously creates an excess supply of permits,  $v_c y_{c0} + 2v_g y_{g0} < 2v_c y_{c0} + 2v_g y_{g0} = \bar{e}_0$ .

(ii) Next, we keep the prices  $q_0$  and  $p_B = p_0$  constant and let  $p_A$  rise to that level  $\tilde{p}_A > p_0$ which clears *A*'s electricity market,  $\tilde{y}_g := S^g(\tilde{p}_A, q_0) = D(\tilde{p}_A) < y_0$ . This step corresponds to a move from  $\tilde{S}_1$  to  $\tilde{S}_2$  in the left panel of Fig. [2.](#page-9-0) The electricity markets in *A* and *B* are now in equilibrium, and it follows from  $y_{g0} < \tilde{y}_g < y_0$  and  $v_c > v_g$  that the permit market has excess supply,  $v_c y_{c0} + v_g y_{g0} + v_g \tilde{y}_g < 2v_c y_{c0} + 2v_g y_{g0} = \bar{e}_0$ .

(iii) In the last step, we start from the electricity market equilibria  $\tilde{S}_2$  (left panel) and  $S_0$  (right panel) and seek to clear the permit market through increasing the electricity production, and with it the emissions, under the condition that the electricity markets remain in equilibrium. To satisfy this condition we need to simultaneously reduce the prices of permits and electricity in *A* and *B*. Ceteris paribus, the reduction of *p reduces* the supply of electricity, but a reduction of *q increases* it, and we choose a suitable combination of both reductions, such that a new electricity market equilibrium is attained with a larger equilibrium quantity of electricity.

In country *B*, a reduction of *q* shifts the curve of total electricity supply  $E_0F_0$  to the right, and the new equilibrium in *B*'s electricity market  $S_{B1}$  is characterized by  $y_{B1} > y_0$ and  $p_{B1} < p_0$ . Interestingly, due to  $v_c > v_g$  the reduction in *q* increases the competitiveness of *c*- compared to *g*-electricity, such that country *B*'s *g*-electricity declines,  $y_{gB1} < y_{g0}$ , and its *c*-electricity expands,  $y_{cB1} > y_{c0}$  - as shown in Table [1.](#page-8-2) Due to the increase in *B*'s *c*-electricity, the net reduction of *c*-electricity is smaller than the reduction of *c*-electricity through *A*'s ban of coal.

The decline of the permit price  $q$  that has been shown to be crucial for the impact in *B* of *A*'s phase out of coal distorts *A*'s electricity market as well. In Fig. [2,](#page-9-0) it shifts the supply curve  $C_0D_0$  to the right as illustrated by the dashed curve  $C_1D_1$ . The new electricity market equilibrium is  $(p_{A1}, y_{A1})$  at point  $S_{A1}$  satisfying  $p_{A1} > p_0$  and  $\tilde{y}_g < y_{A1} < y_0$ . The comparative-static analysis does not exclude that  $p_{A1}$  <  $p_0$  and  $y_{A1}$  >  $y_0$ , but the conditions for either case are complex and unfortunately uninformative. We conjecture that the more

relevant case is that the equilibrium electricity supply  $y_{A1}$  satisfies  $y_{A1} < y_0$  as depicted in Fig.  $2^{10}$  $2^{10}$  $2^{10}$ 

Summing up the third step, we move from  $\tilde{S}_2$  in *A* and from  $S_0$  in *B*, down the electricity demand curves until we reach prices  $q_1$ ,  $p_{A1}$  and  $p_{B1}$ , thus satisfying the three equilibrium conditions  $D(p_{A1}) = S^{g}(p_{A1}, q_1), \quad D(p_{B1}) = S^{c}(p_{B1}, q_1) + S^{g}(p_{B1}, q_1)$  and  $v_gS^g(p_{A1}, q_1) + v_cS^c(p_{B1}, q_1) + v_gS^g(p_{B1}, q_1) = \bar{e}_0$  $v_gS^g(p_{A1}, q_1) + v_cS^c(p_{B1}, q_1) + v_gS^g(p_{B1}, q_1) = \bar{e}_0$  $v_gS^g(p_{A1}, q_1) + v_cS^c(p_{B1}, q_1) + v_gS^g(p_{B1}, q_1) = \bar{e}_0$ . In line with Table 1, we have demonstrated that  $q_1 < q_0$ ,  $p_{A1} < \tilde{p}_A$ ,  $p_{B1} < p_0$ , and  $y_{B1} > y_0$ , but it remains unclear whether  $y_{A1}$  < *y*<sub>0</sub>, as shown in Fig. [2,](#page-9-0) or  $y_{A1} \ge y_0$ .

The allocative displacement efects listed in Table [1](#page-8-2) exhibit the remarkable feature that while country *A* phases out the generation of *c*-electricity, country *B* increases the generation of *c*-electricity,  $S^c(p_{B1}, q_1) > y_{c0}$ , which makes the net reduction of *c*-electricity in the two-country economy smaller than the amount  $y_{c0}$  that country *A* phased out. Country *A*'s phase-out policy generates a waterbed efect of emissions, since each country released  $\bar{e}_0$ /2 emissions before the phase-out, but afterwards, country *A*'s emissions are smaller than country *B*'s. Since the emissions cap remains unchanged by assumption, each country's change in consumption welfare equals the change in its total welfare. It therefore follows from Table [1](#page-8-2) that country *A*'s unilateral phase-out policy reduces its own welfare and increases that of country *B*. Even worse, country *A*'s loss is greater than country *B*'s welfare gain, because the emissions cap is no longer implemented cost-efectively after the unilateral phase-out of coal.

The unilateral ban of coal can be interpreted as a policy that drives a wedge between the permit prices for  $c$ - and  $g$ -electricity in country  $A$ . Formally, the permit price  $q_1$  is uniform across countries and types of electricity after country *A*'s phase-out of coal. However, suppose *A* does not ban coal by 'command and control', as assumed so far, but imposes on its *c*-electricity generating frms a tax in addition to the permit price *q*, and *A* chooses the tax rate, say  $t_{cA}$ , so high that the combined rate  $q + t_{cA}$  renders *A*'s *c*-electricity production unproftable. Thus, the impact of *A*'s selective and overlapping tax policy is the same as that of the command-and-control approach discussed above. We conclude that the policy of Scenario 1 not only creates the electricity price distortion  $p_{A1} \neq p_{B1}$ , as shown above, but also implies a permit (shadow) price distortion  $q_1 \neq q_1 + t_{cA}$ . The raison d'être of an ETS is to establish a uniform emissions price needed to secure cost-efectiveness, by equalizing the marginal abatement costs of all frms covered by the ETS. The 'market-based' unilateral ban of coal that we have outlined here creates diferentiated permit prices and thus demonstrates that unilateral policies of phasing out coal, be it 'market-based' or via 'command and control', perverts the concept of an ETS by eliminating the unique advantage it is designed to offer, namely cost-effective abatement of emissions.<sup>[11](#page-10-1)</sup>

<span id="page-10-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See also our comments at the end of Appendix B. In addition, Eichner and Pethig [\(2019b](#page-29-23)) carried out an empirical calibration in which  $p_{A1} > p_0$  and  $y_{A1} < y_0$  results.

<span id="page-10-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The UK raised a tax on emissions covered by the EU-ETS and doubled its carbon price support in 2015 to 18

on top of the (low) EU permit price (Agora Energiewende and Sandbag [2017,](#page-28-5) p. 22). The result that the generation of *c*-electricity decreased by 44 TWh and the generation of *g*-electricity increased by 45 TWh may be considered desirable, but it comes with a welfare loss due to non-uniform carbon pricing.

Summing up, the unilaterally acting country *A* punishes itself by sufering a welfare loss without achieving any reduction in aggregate emissions and climate damage. In addition, country *B* is granted a welfare gain without any pro-climate contribution of its own. The clear message is that unilateral phase-out policies are neither desirable nor necessary for fghting climate change when an ETS already exists and the emissions cap is kept constant. The intention to ban the dirtiest electricity frst may be good, but proponents of that strategy misjudge the perverse allocative displacement efects created by emissions-reducing *national* measures within the institutional framework of an ETS encompassing more than one country.

The strong asymmetric displacement efects in Scenario 1 are obviously driven by the unilaterality of the phase-out policy. To assess them from a diferent perspective, we now compare Scenario 1 with the policy of banning coal in both countries simultaneously. We prove in [Appendix C](#page-22-0)

<span id="page-11-2"></span>**Proposition 2** *Suppose the initial equilibrium of the economy is characterized by a mix of c- and g-electricity, and both countries phase out the generation of electricity from coal while leaving the emissions cap unchanged. In each country, the associated comparativestatic efects are listed in Table* [2](#page-11-0).

Since the displacement efects of a full ban of coal in Table [2](#page-11-0) are symmetric, they can be illustrated in a diagram such as Fig. [3](#page-11-1) that exhibits the electricity market for one of the countries only. As in Fig. [2](#page-9-0), we explain the move from the initial market equilibria to the new equilibria in three steps. Starting from the initial equilibrium point  $S_0$ , we leave the prices  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  unchanged, and thus move from  $S_0$  to point  $\tilde{S}_1$ . Both electricity markets have excess demand and the permit market excess supply. Second, we keep  $q_0$  fixed and allow the electricity prices to clear the electricity market in each country. We thus move from  $\tilde{S}_1$  to point  $\tilde{S}_2$ . Since  $\tilde{y}_2 < y_0$  and  $v_c > v_g$ , the permit market still has excess supply. Finally, we close the demand gap for permits by increasing the electricity supply under the condition that the electricity markets remain in equilibrium. That is, we start

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

<span id="page-11-1"></span>**Fig. 3** Phase-out of coal in both countries

from the equilibrium point  $\tilde{S}_2$  and move down the demand curve *GH* to a new electricity market equilibrium at point  $S_1$  that satisfies  $D(p_{i1}) = S^g(p_{i1}, q_1)$  for  $i = A, B$ , and  $2v_gS^g(p_{i1}, q_1) = \bar{e}_0$  with  $p_{A1} = p_{B1} = p_1 < p_0$ . From  $2v_gy_0 < v_gy_{g0} + v_cy_{c0}$  it follows that  $y_{\varphi A1} = y_{\varphi B1} = y_{\varphi 1} > y_0.$ 

A comparison of the unilateral with the multilateral phase-out of coal exhibits common features but also crucial diferences. In both cases, aggregate consumption welfare decreases, but both countries lose when coal is banned totally, while *B* gains when coal is banned by *A* only. In the event of total phase-out, the prices of permits and electricity decline, which constitutes a climate policy failure, since an efective policy would require the opposite price signals. In that respect, the unilateral ban performs only slightly better, insofar as it is likely that *A*'s electricity price increases. Note fnally, that in Table [1](#page-8-2), the countries' changes of welfare and electricity consumption exhibit the same sign, whereas in the case of a total ban, electricity consumption rises and welfare declines in both countries.

#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**4 Extensions**

The comparison of the coal ban in both countries with the *unilateral* ban in the previous section has highlighted the strong asymmetric impact of the latter. In Sect. [4,](#page-12-0) we extend the insights into the efects of a unilateral ban of coal by modifying the analytical framework of Scenario 1 in two diferent ways. Section [4.1](#page-12-1) relaxes the assumption of Scenario 1 that the emissions cap remains unchanged; it considers a policy that consists of a combination of unilateral coal phase-out and moderate tightening of the emissions cap (Scenario 2). Section [4.2](#page-14-0) investigates how the outcomes of Scenarios 1 and 2 vary when we replace the *national* electricity markets in these policy scenarios with an *international* market for electricity.

# <span id="page-12-1"></span>**4.1 Unilateral Coal Phase‑Out Combined with Tightening the Emissions Cap (Scenario 2)**

We showed above that the unilateral phase-out of coal decreases the permit price, which is clearly inconsistent with an efective mitigation strategy. While policymakers are reluctant to adopt phase-out policies that lead to increasing prices for electricity and permits, they are also under pressure from pro-climate-policy groups to avoid declining prices. Therefore, they may be willing to combine the unilateral phase-out policy with a moderate emissions-cap tightening. Specifcally, the country acting unilaterally may combine its unilateral phase-policy with a reduction in the emissions cap by the amount of permits it purchased to cover the generation of *c*-electricity before the phase-out of coal (Scenario 2). This policy scenario is inspired by the recent revision of the EU ETS Directive (Directive EU 2018/410) that came into force in 2018 and will apply for the period 2021–2030. The revised EU Directive 2018/410 (L 76/5) stipulates that recognizing "… the interaction between climate policies at Union and national level, Member States should have the possibility of cancelling allowances from their auction volume in the event of closures of electricity-generation capacity in their territory."

Making use of the option to cancel permits amounts to cutting the overall EU missions cap. However, such 'bottom up' emissions-cap reductions need to be distinguished from 'top down' reductions of the cap that are also projected and agreed upon in the EU. The latter reduce emissions cost-efectively, as is well known and demonstrated at the end of Sect. [2.](#page-4-0) In Scenario 2 we investigate how the distortions of the unilateral phaseout policy in Scenario 1 are modifed when a unilaterally acting country makes use of the provision of the EU Directive to cancel permits.

Conceptually, Scenario 2 can be decomposed into two parts. In the frst part, country *A* unilaterally phases out coal as in Scenario 1, and in the second part the emissions cap is tightened, which yields a beneft in the form of reduced climate damage. Since that benefit is the same for both countries (due to the additivity of the welfare function  $(7)$  $(7)$ ), we restrict our attention to changes in consumption welfare.

In Scenario 2 that we now analyze, country *A* complements its unilateral phase-out policy (Scenario 1) by cutting back the initial emissions cap from  $\bar{e}_0$  to  $\bar{e}_1 \equiv \bar{e}_0 - v_c \bar{y}_c$ <sub>0</sub>, where  $\bar{y}_{c0}$  is its generation of *c*-electricity before phasing out coal. The comparative statics of a marginal reduction in the generation of *c*-electricity,  $d\bar{y}_{cA} < 0$ , combined with a marginal reduction of the emissions cap,  $d\bar{e} = v_c d\bar{y}_{cA} < 0$ , is carried out in Appendix D. We summarize the results in

<span id="page-13-1"></span>**Proposition 3** *Suppose the initial equilibrium of the two-country economy is characterized by a mix of c- and g-electricity, country A unilaterally phases out the generation of electricity from coal, and cancels its emission allowances formerly used for the generation*  of c-electricity. If the convexity of function  $K^c$  is sufficiently weak, the associated compara*tive-static efects are as presented in Table* [3](#page-13-0).

Analogous to our procedure in Scenario 1, we explain the allocative displacement efects on the markets for permits and electricity with reference to Fig. [2](#page-9-0). The frst two steps of the decomposition procedure are the same as in Scenario 1 and we thus reach the electricity market equilibria at points  $S_0$  (right panel) and  $\tilde{S}_2$  (left panel) of Fig. [2.](#page-9-0) When the electricity markets are in these equilibria and the permit price is still constant at  $q_0$ , the permit market has excess supply in Scenario 1,  $v_c y_{c0} + v_g (y_{g0} + \tilde{y}_g) < \bar{e}_0$ , because  $y_{g0} < \tilde{y}_g < y_0$  and  $v_c > v_g$ , but excess demand in Scenario 2,  $v_c y_{c0} + v_g (y_{g0} + \tilde{y}_g) > \bar{e}_1$  : =  $\bar{e}_0 - v_c y_{c0}$ . Thus, the third and last step is to depart from the equilibrium points  $\tilde{S}_2$  and  $S_0$  and restore the permit-market equilibrium by reducing the generation of electricity while keeping the electricity markets in equilibrium. This is accomplished by choosing the prices  $q_1 > q_0$ ,  $p_{A1} > \tilde{p}_A$  and  $p_{B1} > p_0$  such that  $D(p_{A1}) = S^g(p_{A1}, q_1) < \tilde{y}_g < y_0$ ,  $D(p_{B1}) = S^c(p_{B1}, q_1) + S^g(p_{B1}, q_1)$  and  $v_g S^g(p_{A1}, q_1) + v_c S^c(p_{B1}, q_1) + v_g S^g(p_{B1}, q_1) = \bar{e}_1.$ 

After the phase-out of coal in Scenario 2, all prices are higher than in Scenario 1 and higher than before the ban. This qualifies Scenario 2 as an effective policy for fighting climate change. In Scenario 2, *A*'s emissions are smaller than *B*'s, and in both countries they are smaller than before the coal ban. In country *A*, the loss of consumption welfare is more severe in Scenario 2 than in 1, because *A*'s emissions decrease more strongly in 2 than in 1. While  $du_A - du_B < 0$  in Scenario 1, the sign of that difference is unclear in Scenario 2.

<span id="page-13-0"></span>

It is also worth noting that all comparative-static efects other than d*q* exhibit opposing signs for *A* and *B* in Table [1,](#page-8-2) but the same signs in Table [3.](#page-13-0) This observation suggests that the diference between the countries' welfare changes is smaller in Scenario 2 than in 1, although it is plausible that *B* is still better of than *A* in Scenario 2.

#### <span id="page-14-0"></span>**4.2 International Trade in Electricity**

So far, we have assumed that electricity is not traded internationally. Above, we referred to the EU-ETS where some transboundary trade in electricity takes place, although the crossborder infrastructure is (still) inappropriate and price convergence is partial (European Commission ([2017\)](#page-29-3)). We now replace the assumption of no trade by the polar opposite assumption to see how international trade modifes the efects of the unilateral phase-out policies of the Scenarios 1 and 2.

#### **4.2.1 Unilateral Coal Phase‑Out and International Trade in Electricity (Scenario 1 with trade)**

In this section, we investigate the unilateral phase-out policy that difers from Scenario 1 only in that we replace the national markets for electricity with an international electricity market. For convenience of notation we refer to that policy scenario as Scenario 1 with trade. In Appendix E, we performed the comparative statics of Scenario 1 with trade and summarize the results in

<span id="page-14-2"></span>**Proposition 4** *Suppose the initial equilibrium of the two-country economy with international trade in electricity is characterized by a mix of c- and g-electricity, and country A unilaterally phases out the generation of electricity from coal, while the emissions cap remains unchanged. Then, the associated comparative-static effects are as presented in Table* [4.](#page-14-1)

In several steps we explain the transition of the initial prices  $(p_0, q_0)$  to the new equilibrium prices  $(p_1, q_1)$  in Scenario 1 with trade.

(i) With free trade in electricity, the initial state of the economy is the same as in all previous scenarios without trade, since the countries are assumed to be identical. The policy impact is decomposed as follows. We set  $y_{cA} = 0$ , keep  $(p_0, q_0)$  fixed and obtain an excess supply of permits and an excess demand in the international market for electricity:  $S^{c}(p_0, q_0) + 2S^{g}(p_0, q_0) < 2D(p_0)$  and  $e_0 := v_c S^{c}(p_0, q_0) + 2v_s S^{g}(p_0, q_0) < \bar{e}_0$ . Accordingly, the current positions on the international electricity market are point  $\tilde{S}_1$  (country *A*) and point  $S_0$  (country *B*) in Fig. [3.](#page-11-1)

(ii) In order to clear the electricity market, we leave  $p_0$  unchanged and choose the permit price  $\tilde{q} < q_0$  that yields  $S^c(p_0, \tilde{q}) + 2S^g(p_0, \tilde{q}) = 2D(p_0)$ . From  $S_q^h < 0$  it

<span id="page-14-1"></span>

follows that  $S^h(p_0, \tilde{q}) > S^h(p_0, q_0)$  and therefore  $\tilde{e} := v_c S^c(p_0, \tilde{q}) + 2v_g S^g(p_0, \tilde{q}) > e_0$ .<br>But since  $e_0 < \bar{e}_0$  the sign of  $\tilde{e} - \bar{e}_0$  is unclear. We conclude from since  $e_0 < \bar{e}_0$  the sign of  $\tilde{e} - \bar{e}_0$  is unclear. We conclude from  $S^{c}(p_0, \tilde{q}) + 2S^{g}(p_0, \tilde{q}) = 2S^{c}(p_0, q_0) + 2S^{g}(p_0, q_0) = 2D(p_0)$  and  $S^{g}(p_0, \tilde{q}) > S^{g}(p_0, q_0)$  that  $S^c(p_0, \tilde{q}) < 2S^c(p_0, q_0)$ , which yields  $\tilde{e} < \tilde{e}_0$  in view of  $v_c > v_g$ .

(iii) Thus, we need to clear the permit market while keeping the electricity market in equilibrium. This can be done by choosing suitable prices  $q_1 < \tilde{q} < q_0$  and  $p_1 < p_0$ .

After the phase-out, the permits initially used by country *A* for the generation of *c*-electricity are relocated as follows. Each country buys a share of the idle permits to increase the generation of *g*-electricity, and country *B* uses the remaining permits to increase the generation of *c*-electricity ( $y_{cB1} > y_{c0}$ ). The quantity  $y_{B1}$  is larger than  $y_0$  not only because  $y_{gB1}$  >  $y_{g0}$ , but also because  $y_{gB1}$  >  $y_{g0}$ . Hence, the net reduction of *c*-electricity in the twocountry economy is  $y_{c0} - (y_{cB1} - y_{c0})$ , which is positive but less than the *c*-electricity  $y_{c0}$ phased out by country *A*.

Country *B*'s total electricity supply  $y_{B1}$  exceeds  $y_{A1}$  by  $\Delta y_B = y_{cB1} + y_{gB1} - y_{gA1} = y_{cB1} > 0$ . Since, after the phase-out, the demand for electricity,  $D(p_1)$ , is the same in both countries, country *B* exports - and country *A* imports -  $\frac{1}{2} \Delta y_B$ units of electricity. Since both countries generate the same amount of *g*-electricity, country *A*'s electricity import can be interpreted to some extent as replacing its former *c*-electricity generation by an import of *c*-electricity. The counterpart of the changes in the supplies of and demands for electricity caused by the phase-out are changes in the purchase of permits. Specifically, country *A* buys  $\Delta e_A = |v_c y_{c0} - v_g(y_{gA1} - y_{g0})|$  permits less after the phase-out than before, and country *B* increases its purchase of permits by  $\Delta e_A$ . Therefore, the crossthan before, and country *B* increases its purchase of permits by  $\Delta e_A$ . Therefore, the crossborder trade of electricity implies a waterbed efect of permits and emissions. Put diferently, country *A*'s unilateral phase-out policy reduces *domestic* emissions signifcantly, but does so at the expense of a leakage rate of 100 percent.

The common feature of Scenarios 1 without and with transboundary trade in electricity is an aggregate welfare loss. We conjecture, however, that the loss is smaller in Scenario 1 with trade, because of the standard 'gains from trade'. While in Scenario 1 the consumption welfare in *A* declines and that in *B* rises, the sign of the changes in *A*'s and *B*'s consumption welfare is ambiguous in Scenario 1 with trade. As equations  $(E25)$  $(E25)$  $(E25)$  and  $(E26)$  $(E26)$  $(E26)$  in Appendix E show, the ambiguity arises from partial efects of cross-border electricity trade with opposing signs. Our conjecture is that country  $B$  is better off than country  $A$ , as in Scenario 1 without trade, but that the diference in welfare changes is smaller. The obser-vation that in Table [4](#page-14-1) the direction of change of the variables  $y_{gi}$ ,  $y_i$  and  $p_i$ ,  $i = A, B$ , is the same across countries but is different in Table [1](#page-8-2), suggests that the international trade shifts a share of country *A*'s welfare loss in Scenario 1 to country *B* in Scenario 1 with trade.

#### **4.2.2 Unilateral Coal Phase‑Out Combined with Tightening the Emissions Cap and International Trade in Electricity (Scenario 2 with Trade)**

The comparative statics of Scenario 2 with trade is carried out in Appendix F. We list the results in

<span id="page-15-0"></span>**Proposition 5** *Suppose the initial equilibrium of the two-country economy with an international electricity market is characterized by a mix of c- and g-electricity, country A unilaterally phases out the generation of electricity from coal and cancels its emission allowances formerly used for the generation of c-electricity. Then, the associated comparative-static efects are as presented in Table* [5](#page-16-1).

<span id="page-16-1"></span>

We decompose the allocative displacement effects on the markets for permits and elec-tricity listed in Table [5](#page-16-1) as follows. First, we keep the initial equilibrium prices  $(p_0, q_0)$ unchanged after country *A* has phased out the *c*-electricity and reduced the emissions cap to level  $\bar{e}_1 := \bar{e}_0 - v_c y_{c0}$ . That creates an excess demand on the international electricity market,  $S^c(p_0, q_0) + 2S^g(p_0, q_0) < 2D(p_0)$ , and the permit market is in equilibrium,  $v_cS^c(p_0, q_0) + 2v_gS^g(p_0, q_0) = \bar{e}_1$ . We then choose an electricity price  $p_1 > p_0$  and a permit price  $q_1 > q_0$  such that the electricity market equilibrium is restored and total emissions remain the same. On the electricity market, these new prices reduce the demand, and due to  $v_c > v_g$ , they increase total supply by curbing the generation of *c*-electricity in *B*, and increasing the supply of  $g$ -electricity in  $A$  and  $B$  by more than the reduction of  $c$ -electricity. In this way it is possible to attain a new electricity-market equilibrium while changing total emissions.

The common feature of Scenarios 2 with trade (Proposition [5\)](#page-15-0) and Scenario 1 with trade (Proposition [4\)](#page-14-2) is that the associated comparative statics do not yield a clear sign for the change in the countries' consumption welfare. The ambiguity in Scenario 2 with trade is less expected than in Scenario 1 with trade, because the emissions cap is smaller in 2 with trade than in 1 with trade. The smaller cap reduces the capacity of producing electricity in the twocountry economy. In Scenario 1 with trade, the prices of electricity and permits are smaller, and in Scenario 2 with trade, they are higher than in the absence of *A*'s phase-out policy, and the generation of electricity increases in Scenario 1 with trade, but decreases in 2 with trade. Comparing the comparative statics of the Scenarios 2 with and without trade reveals that both countries' consumption welfare decreases in Scenario 2 (Proposition [4\)](#page-14-2) but not necessarily in Scenario 2 with trade (Proposition [5\)](#page-15-0). We take this as indicating that the international trade in electricity dampens the adverse effects of unilateral phase-out policies.

# <span id="page-16-0"></span>**5 Concluding Remarks**

We consider a group of countries, such as the EU, with a joint ETS covering all installations generating electricity by means of natural gas or coal. The ETS countries commit to national emissions-reduction goals and may apply a 'command-and-control' policy of phasing out their generation of coal-based electricity in order to achieve these goals. This paper analyzes the interaction of the ETS with such phase-out policies and specifies the resulting displacement effects, inefficiencies and welfare effects.

We show that if an ETS country unilaterally phases out the generation of coal-based electricity, when the emissions cap is given, that country sufers a welfare loss and makes the other countries better off. Furthermore, the decline in the permit price signals that the climate policy is relaxed rather than tightened. There are climate activists and policymakers who advocate the phase-out of coal via command and control, arguing that banning the dirtiest electricity as soon as possible is the right thing to do.

Unfortunately, what they consider common sense is in fact a failure to understand that good intentions yield perverse efects in this case.

The basic economic rationale for the inefficiency created by the interference of phaseout policies with an ETS is straightforward. The raison d'être of an ETS is the uniform emissions price that secures cost-efectiveness by equalizing the marginal abatement costs of all frms covered by the ETS. As an implication, in an international ETS such as the EU ETS, the only efficient phase-out-of-coal policy is to successively tighten the emissions cap until generating *c*-electricity becomes unproftable in all ETS countries. Forced phase-out by command and control, be it joint or unilateral, is necessarily associated with an aggregate welfare loss. The reason for the inefficiency of forced phaseout is that it implies divergent (shadow) permit prices. Put diferently, the interference of the phase-out policy with an ETS is equivalent to applying a tax regime of diferentiated tax rates on emissions from coal-based and gas-based electricity. Cost-efectiveness is violated even if there is no waterbed efect of emissions - as in the case of countries that are symmetric and phase out coal jointly. The upshot is that phasing out the generation of coal-based electricity via regulation perverts the concept of an ETS by eliminating the unique advantage an ETS is designed to ofer, namely cost-efective abatement induced by a uniform carbon price. If the country doing the phasing-out uses the recent option of the EU ETS Directive (Directive EU 2018/410) to tighten the emissions cap by canceling the permits formerly used for emissions from *c*-electricity, the policy is still distortive and reduces the consumption welfare in both countries. At any rate, the permit price rises rather than declines, as it does without the canceling of permits. A rising permit price is the right signal for an efective climate policy.

The contribution of the paper is a conceptual and rigorous analysis in a model that is simple enough to yield precise results and has enough structure to map some features of the energy and climate policies in the EU that are relevant for the issue at hand. Although the reduction in complexity comes with the beneft of transparency and a clear focus on essentials, we are aware that the analytical framework contains various crude simplifcations for reasons of tractability. The price we pay for attaining informative analytical results is that we had to abstract from some empirically relevant aspects of coal-phase-out regulation.

Burning fossil fuels causes local pollution that appears to be more severe in the case of burning coal than gas. In order to see how the consideration of local pollution would change our results, observe that the local pollution damage decreases in *A* but increases in *B*, if country *A* phases out coal. As an implication, the welfare loss of country *A* and the welfare gain of country *B* are smaller than derived in our scenarios without local pollution.

Since many countries have signifcantly stepped up the generation of electricity from renewables in recent years, the electricity market(s) and the permit market are not as tightly connected in practice as in our analysis without renewables.<sup>12</sup> How the supply of renewables reacts to unilateral phase-out policies then depends on the prevailing support schemes for renewables, and on deliberate changes in such support. Unless renewables-based electricity is promoted by feed-in tarifs (which decouples it from the electricity market), an increase [decrease] in the electricity price, as derived in our Tables [1](#page-8-2), [3](#page-13-0) and [5,](#page-16-1) would tend

<span id="page-17-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The interaction between the permit market and the electricity market(s) with electricity generated from fossil and renewable resources is analyzed in Eichner and Pethig ([2019a](#page-29-12)). However, that study considers homogeneous fossil energy resources and hence obviously cannot deal with phase-out-of-coal policies.

to incentivize [disincentivize] the generation of electricity from renewables. An increasing [decreasing] electricity price would reduce [increase] the pressure to step up the generation of electricity from gas in order to compensate for the loss of coal-based electricity. These responses of the supply of electricity from renewables tend to soften changes in the electricity price in either direction and thus smoothen the readjustment of markets after the phase-out of coal and lower the adjustment costs.

Finally, our analysis obviously lacks important intertemporal features such as endogenous production capacities, climate-friendly technical change, a tightening of the emissions cap over time, and borrowing and banking of permits. The integration of these items into an analysis of the interaction of an ETS with phase-out policies is an agenda for future research.

#### **Appendix 1: Derivations and Assumption**

**Derivation of** ([2](#page-5-5)): Differentiating  $p_i - K_i^h - qv_h = 0$  we obtain

$$
dp_i - K_{y_i y_i}^h dy_{hi} - v_h dq = 0.
$$
 (A1)

From  $(A1)$  $(A1)$  $(A1)$  we infer

$$
S_{p_i}^h \equiv \frac{dy_{hi}}{dp_i} = \frac{1}{K_{y_i y_i}^h} > 0, \quad S_q^h \equiv \frac{dy_{hi}}{dq} = -\frac{E_y^h}{K_{y_i y_i}^h} < 0.
$$
 (A2)

**Derivation of**  $\frac{dp}{d\bar{e}} < 0$ **: Consider the symmetric equilibrium<sup>[13](#page-18-1)</sup>** 

<span id="page-18-6"></span><span id="page-18-2"></span><span id="page-18-0"></span>
$$
p = P(x),\tag{A3}
$$

$$
p = qv_g + K_y^g,\tag{A4}
$$

$$
p = qv_c + K_y^c,\tag{A5}
$$

<span id="page-18-3"></span>
$$
x = y_c + y_g,\tag{A6}
$$

$$
\bar{e} = 2v_g y_g + 2v_c y_c,\tag{A7}
$$

$$
u = \int_0^x P(z)dz - K^c(y_c) - K^g(y_g).
$$
 (A8)

Total differentiation of  $(A3)$  $(A3)$ – $(A7)$  leads to

<span id="page-18-5"></span><span id="page-18-4"></span>
$$
dp = P' dx,\tag{A9}
$$

<span id="page-18-1"></span><sup>13</sup> Observe that  $y_{ci} = y_c$ ,  $y_{ei} = y_g$ ,  $x_i = x$  for  $i = A, B$ .

<span id="page-19-2"></span>
$$
dp = v_g dq + K_{yy}^g dy_g,
$$
\n(A10)

$$
dp = v_c dq + K_{yy}^c dy_c,
$$
\n(A11)

<span id="page-19-3"></span><span id="page-19-1"></span><span id="page-19-0"></span>
$$
dy_c + dy_g = dx,
$$
 (A12)

$$
2v_g dy_g + 2v_c dy_c = d\bar{e}.
$$
 (A13)

Inserting

<span id="page-19-6"></span><span id="page-19-4"></span>
$$
dy_c = \frac{d\bar{e}}{2v_c} - \frac{v_g}{v_c} dy_g
$$
 (A14)

from  $(A13)$  $(A13)$  $(A13)$  in  $(A12)$  $(A12)$  we obtain

$$
dx = \frac{d\bar{e}}{2v_c} + \left(\frac{v_c - v_g}{v_c}\right) dy_g.
$$
 (A15)

Combining  $(A10)$  $(A10)$  and  $(A11)$  results in

<span id="page-19-7"></span><span id="page-19-5"></span>
$$
\frac{v_c - v_g}{v_c v_g} dp = \frac{K_{yy}^g}{v_g} dy_g - \frac{K_{yy}^c}{v_c} dy_c.
$$
 (A16)

Taking advantage of  $(A14)$  $(A14)$  $(A14)$  in  $(A16)$  $(A16)$  we obtain

$$
\frac{v_c(v_c - v_g)}{v_g^2 K_{yy}^c + v_c^2 K_{yy}^g} dp + \frac{v_g K_{yy}^c}{2(v_g^2 K_{yy}^c + v_c^2 K_{yy}^g)} d\bar{e} = dy_g.
$$
\n(A17)

Next, we insert ([A9](#page-18-4)) in ([A15](#page-19-6)) and solve for  $dy_g$  which yields

$$
dy_g = \frac{v_c}{P'(v_c - v_g)} dp - \frac{1}{2(v_c - v_g)} d\bar{e}.
$$
 (A18)

Combining  $(A17)$  $(A17)$  and  $(A18)$  we obtain

$$
dp = \frac{P'\left(v_c K_{yy}^g + v_g K_{yy}^c\right)}{2\left[v_c^2 K_{yy}^g - P'(v_c - v_g)^2 + v_g^2 K_{yy}^c\right]} d\bar{e}.
$$
 (A19)

From  $(A19)$  $(A19)$  $(A19)$  we infer

<span id="page-19-9"></span><span id="page-19-8"></span>
$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}\bar{e}} < 0. \tag{A20}
$$

**Proof of**  $dy_c > dy_g$ . From [\(A10\)](#page-19-2) and [\(A11\)](#page-19-3) it follows that

<span id="page-20-0"></span>
$$
dy_c \ge dy_g \iff \left(\frac{1}{K_{yy}^c} - \frac{1}{K_{yy}^g}\right) dp \ge \left(\frac{v_c}{K_{yy}^c} - \frac{v_g}{K_{yy}^g}\right) dq
$$
\n
$$
\iff K_{yy}^g - K_{yy}^c \le (v_c K_{yy}^g - v_g K_{yy}^c) \frac{dq}{dp}.
$$
\n(A21)

We know that  $dy_c + dy_g > 0$  (if  $d\bar{e} > 0$ ). Combined with  $dy_h = \frac{1}{K_{yy}^h}(dp - v_h dq)$  this inequality yields, after some rearrangement of terms,

$$
\mathrm{d}p > v_g \frac{\frac{v_c}{v_g} K_{yy}^g + K_{yy}^c}{K_{yy}^c + K_{yy}^g} \mathrm{d}q \quad \text{and hence} \quad \mathrm{d}p > v_g \mathrm{d}q \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}q}{\mathrm{d}p} > \frac{1}{v_g}. \tag{A22}
$$

Finally, we consider  $\frac{dq}{dp} > \frac{1}{v_g}$  in  $(v_c K_{yy}^g - v_g K_{yy}^c) \frac{dq}{dp}$  $\frac{dq}{dp}$  from [\(A21\)](#page-20-0) and get

$$
(\nu_c K_{yy}^g - \nu_g K_{yy}^c) \frac{dq}{dp} > \frac{\nu_c K_{yy}^g - \nu_g K_{yy}^c}{\nu_g} = \frac{\nu_c}{\nu_g} K_{yy}^g - K_{yy}^c > K_{yy}^g - K_{yy}^c. \tag{A23}
$$

([A23](#page-20-1)) combined with [\(A21\)](#page-20-0) proves that  $dy_c > dy_g$ .

# **Appendix B: Unilateral Phase‑Out of Coal with National Electricity Markets and Constant Emissions (Scenario 1)**

The associated equilibrium is characterized by the equations

<span id="page-20-1"></span>
$$
p_i = P(x_i) \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(B1)

$$
p_i = v_g q + K_{y_i}^g \quad i = A, B,
$$
 (B2)

<span id="page-20-8"></span><span id="page-20-7"></span><span id="page-20-6"></span><span id="page-20-3"></span>
$$
p_B = v_c q + K_{y_B}^c,\tag{B3}
$$

$$
x_i = y_{ci} + y_{gi} \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(B4)

$$
\bar{e} = v_g y_{gA} + v_c y_{cA} + v_g y_{gB} + v_c y_{cB},
$$
 (B5)

$$
u_i = \int_0^{x_i} P(z)dz - K^c(y_{ci}) - K^g(y_{gi}).
$$
 (B6)

<span id="page-20-9"></span><span id="page-20-5"></span><span id="page-20-4"></span>
$$
y_{cA} = \bar{y}_{cA}.\tag{B7}
$$

In the sequel, we assume<sup>14</sup>  $K_{yy}^c = 0$ . Total differentiation of [\(B1](#page-20-3))–[\(B7](#page-20-4)) leads to

$$
dp_i = P_i'dx_i \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(B8)

<span id="page-20-2"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The results of Appendix B and D also hold as long as  $K_{yy}^c$  is sufficiently small.

$$
\mathrm{d}p_i = v_g \mathrm{d}q + K^g_{y_i y_i} \mathrm{d}y_{gi} \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(B9)

<span id="page-21-4"></span><span id="page-21-3"></span><span id="page-21-1"></span><span id="page-21-0"></span>
$$
dp_B = v_c dq, \tag{B10}
$$

$$
dx_A = d\bar{y}_{cA} + dy_{gA}, \qquad (B11)
$$

<span id="page-21-10"></span><span id="page-21-9"></span><span id="page-21-2"></span>
$$
\mathrm{d}x_B = \mathrm{d}y_{cB} + \mathrm{d}y_{gB},\tag{B12}
$$

$$
0 = v_g dy_{gA} + v_c d\bar{y}_{cA} + v_c dy_{cB} + v_g dy_{gB},
$$
 (B13)

$$
du_A = p_A dx_A - K_{y_A}^c d\bar{y}_{cA} - K_{y_A}^g dy_{gA},
$$
 (B14)

<span id="page-21-6"></span><span id="page-21-5"></span>
$$
du_B = p_B dx_B - K_{y_B}^c dy_{cB} - K_{y_B}^g dy_{gB}.
$$
 (B15)

Combining [\(B9](#page-21-0)), [\(B10](#page-21-1)) and ([B13\)](#page-21-2) yields

$$
dy_{gA} = \frac{v_c dp_A - v_g dp_B}{v_c K_{y_A y_A}^g}, \quad dy_{gB} = \frac{(v_c - v_g) dp_B}{v_c K_{y_B y_B}^g}, \quad dq = \frac{dp_B}{v_c},
$$
(B16)

$$
dy_{cB} = -\frac{v_c v_g K_{y_B y_B}^g dp_A + \left[ v_g (v_c - v_g) K_{y_A y_A}^g - v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g \right] dp_B}{v_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g}
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{v_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g d\bar{y}_{cA}}{v_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g}.
$$
\n(B17)

Combining  $(B8)$  $(B8)$ ,  $(B11)$  $(B11)$ ,  $(B12)$ ,  $(B16)$  and  $(B17)$  $(B17)$  we obtain

$$
\frac{dp_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = \frac{P_A' \left[ (-P_B') \left[ (\nu_c - \nu_g) \left( (\nu_c - \nu_g) K_{y_A y_A}^g - \nu_g K_{y_B y_B}^g \right) + \nu_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g \right] }{Z}, \quad (B18)
$$

<span id="page-21-8"></span><span id="page-21-7"></span>
$$
\frac{dp_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}^s} = -\frac{P'_B v_c K_{y_B y_B}^g \left[v_c K_{y_A y_A}^g - P'_A (v_c - v_g)\right]}{Z} > 0,
$$
\n(B19)

where

$$
Z := v_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g - P'_A \left[ v_c^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g - P'_B (v_c - v_g)^2 \right] - P'_B \left[ v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g + (v_c - v_g)^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g \right] > 0.
$$
 (B20)

Inserting  $(B18)$  $(B18)$  and  $(B19)$  $(B19)$  into  $(B16)$  $(B16)$  $(B16)$ – $(B17)$  $(B17)$  $(B17)$  results in

$$
\frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = \frac{P'_A \left[ v_c^2 K_{y_{B}y_B}^g - P'_B (v_c - v_g)^2 \right] + P'_B v_c v_g K_{y_B y_B}^g}{Z} < 0,\tag{B21}
$$

$$
\frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{P'_B(v_c - v_g)\left[v_c K^g_{y_A y_A} - P'_A(v_c - v_g)\right]}{Z} > 0,
$$
\n(B22)

$$
\frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{\left[\nu_c K_{y_A y_A}^g - P_A'(\nu_c - \nu_g)\right] \left[\nu_c K_{y_B y_B}^g - P_B'(\nu_c - \nu_g)\right]}{Z} < 0
$$
\n(B23)

and

$$
v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_c \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} = -v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} - v_c \tag{B24}
$$

$$
= -\frac{\left[\nu_c K_{y_A y_A}^g - P_A'(\nu_c - \nu_g)\right] \left[\nu_c^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g - P_B'(\nu_c - \nu_g)^2\right]}{Z} < 0.
$$
 (B25)

Next, accounting for [\(B2](#page-20-6)), [\(B3](#page-20-7)) and  $p_A = K_{y_A}^c + qv_c + \tau$  (where  $\tau$  is the shadow price of capping coal-based electricity) the consumption welfare changes are given by

$$
\frac{du_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q\left(v_c + v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right) + \tau > 0,
$$
\n(B26)

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left( v_c \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) < 0,\tag{B27}
$$

$$
\frac{du_A + du_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left[ v_c \left( 1 + \frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) + \left( v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) \right] + \tau = \tau > 0. \tag{B28}
$$

Finally, we further investigate  $\frac{dp_A}{dp_A}$  from [\(B18](#page-21-7)). For quadratic *K<sup>g</sup>*-functions we obtain

$$
v_c > 2v_g \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}p_A}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0. \tag{B29}
$$

The results are summarized in Proposition [1.](#page-8-3)

It is worth mentioning that in economies with linear demand functions, linear *K<sup>c</sup>* -functions and quadratic  $K^g$ -functions we were not able to prove the existence of economies satisfying  $y_{gA} > 0$ ,  $y_{gB} > 0$ ,  $y_{cB} > 0$  and  $\frac{dp_A}{dy_{cA}} > 0$ .

#### <span id="page-22-0"></span>**Appendix C: Joint Phase‑Out of Coal**

Consider the symmetric equilibrium [\(A3](#page-18-2))–([A8](#page-18-5)) and assume that  $\bar{y}_{cA} = \bar{y}_{cB} \equiv \bar{y}_c$  is chosen by the government of country  $i = A, B$ . Then total differentiation of  $(A3)$  $(A3)$  $(A3)$ – $(A8)$  $(A8)$  leads to

<span id="page-22-1"></span>
$$
dp = P' dx, \tag{C1}
$$

$$
\mathrm{d}p = v_g \mathrm{d}q + K_{yy}^g \mathrm{d}y_g,\tag{C2}
$$

<span id="page-23-2"></span><span id="page-23-0"></span>
$$
d\bar{y}_c + dy_g = dx,\t(C3)
$$

$$
2v_g dy_g^s + 2v_c d\bar{y}_c^s = 0,
$$
\n(C4)

$$
pdx - K_y^c \mathrm{d} \bar{y}_c - K_y^g \mathrm{d} y_g = \mathrm{d} u. \tag{C5}
$$

From  $(C4)$  $(C4)$  we get

<span id="page-23-4"></span><span id="page-23-1"></span>
$$
dy_g = -\frac{v_c}{v_g} d\bar{y}_c.
$$
 (C6)

Inserting  $(C6)$  $(C6)$  in  $(C3)$  $(C3)$  we obtain

<span id="page-23-3"></span>
$$
dx = \frac{v_g - v_c}{v_g} d\bar{y}_c.
$$
 (C7)

Making use of  $(C7)$  $(C7)$  in  $(C1)$  $(C1)$  we get

$$
-\frac{P'(v_c - v_g)}{v_g}dy_c = dp.
$$
 (C8)

Finally, accounting for [\(C3\)](#page-23-2), [\(A4\)](#page-18-6) and  $p - K_y^c = v_c q + \tau$  (where  $\tau > 0$  is the shadow price of capping coal-based electricity) in [\(C5](#page-23-4)) the welfare change is given by

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_c} = q \left( v_c + v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_g}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_c} \right) + \tau. \tag{C9}
$$

Taking advantage of  $(C6)$  $(C6)$  establishes

<span id="page-23-6"></span>
$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_c} = \tau > 0. \tag{C10}
$$

The results are summarized in Proposition [2.](#page-11-2)

# **Appendix D: Unilateral Phase‑Out of Coal with National Electricity Markets and Cancelling Emission Allowances (Scenario 2)**

The equilibrium of the model is characterized by the equations  $(B1)$ – $(B4)$  $(B4)$ ,  $(B6)$  $(B6)$ – $(B7)$  $(B7)$  and

$$
\bar{e} - v_c y_{cA} = v_g y_{gA} + v_c y_{cA} + v_g y_{gB} + v_c y_{cB},
$$
 (D1)

Total diferentiation of these equations yields [\(B8](#page-20-5))–[\(B12](#page-21-4)), [\(B14](#page-21-9))–[\(B15](#page-21-10)) and

<span id="page-23-5"></span>
$$
v_g dy_{gA} + v_c dy_{cB} + v_g dy_{gB} = 0.
$$
 (D2)

Solving  $(B8)$  $(B8)$ – $(B12)$  $(B12)$  and  $(D2)$  $(D2)$  we obtain

$$
\frac{dp_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = \frac{P_A'\left[v_c^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g - P_B'\left((v_c - v_g)^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g + v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g\right)\right]}{Z} < 0,
$$
\n(D3)

$$
\frac{dp_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{P'_A P'_B v_c v_g K_{y_B y_B}^g}{Z} < 0,\tag{D4}
$$

$$
\frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = \frac{P'_A \left[ v_c^2 K_{y_{g} y_g}^g - P'_B (v_c - v_g)^2 \right]}{Z} < 0,\tag{D5}
$$

$$
\frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{P'_A P'_B (v_c - v_g) v_g}{Z} < 0,\tag{D6}
$$

$$
\frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{P'_A v_g \left[ v_c K_{y_B y_B}^g - P'_B (v_c - v_g) \right]}{Z} > 0
$$
 (D7)

and

$$
v_c \frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = -\frac{P'_A v_g \left[v_c^2 K_{y_{g}y_g}^g - P'_B (v_c - v_g)^2\right]}{Z} > 0,
$$
 (D8)

$$
v_c + v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{dy_{cA}} = \frac{v_c^3 K_{y_A y_A}^g K_{y_B y_B}^g - P_A'(v_c - v_g) [v_c^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g - P_B'(v_c - v_g)^2]}{Z} - \frac{P_B' v_c [(v_c - v_g)^2 K_{y_A y_A}^g + v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^g]}{Z} > 0.
$$
 (D9)

Finally, the consumption welfare changes are given by

$$
\frac{du_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q\left(v_c + v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right) + \tau > 0,
$$
\n(D10)

$$
\frac{du_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left( v_c \frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) = -qv_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} > 0,
$$
\n(D11)

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u_A + \mathrm{d}u_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left[ v_c \left( 1 + \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) + v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} \right] + \tau = qv_c + \tau > 0. \tag{D12}
$$

The results are summarized in Proposition [3.](#page-13-1)

# **Appendix E: Unilateral Phase‑Out of Coal with International Electricity Markets and Constant Emissions (Scenario 1 with trade)**

The associated equilibrium is characterized by the equations

<span id="page-24-1"></span><span id="page-24-0"></span>
$$
p = P(x_i) \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(E1)

$$
p = qv_g + K_{yi}^g \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(E2)

<span id="page-25-13"></span><span id="page-25-12"></span>
$$
p = qv_c + K_{yB}^c,
$$
 (E3)

$$
x_A + x_B = y_{cA} + y_{gA} + y_{cB} + y_{gB},
$$
 (E4)

$$
\bar{e} = v_g y_{gA} + v_c y_{cA} + v_g y_{gB} + v_c y_{cB},\tag{E5}
$$

$$
u_i = \int_0^{x_i} P(z)dz - K^c(y_{ci}) - K^g(y_{gi}) \quad i = A, B,
$$
 (E6)

<span id="page-25-9"></span><span id="page-25-2"></span><span id="page-25-1"></span><span id="page-25-0"></span>
$$
y_{cA} = \bar{y}_{cA}.\tag{E7}
$$

Observe that equilibria are characterized by  $y_{gA} = y_{gB}$  which follows from [\(E2](#page-24-0)). Therefore, it holds  $K_{y_A}^g = K_{y_A}^g \equiv K_y^g$  and  $K_{y_A y_A}^g = K_{y_B y_B}^g \equiv \tilde{K}_{yy}^g$ .

Inserting  $(E7)$  $(E7)$  $(E7)$  in  $(E1)$  $(E1)$  $(E1)$ – $(E6)$  and total differentiation leads to

$$
dp = P'_i dx_i \quad i = A, B,
$$
 (E8)

$$
dp = v_g dq + K_{yy}^g dy_{gi} \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(E9)

<span id="page-25-8"></span><span id="page-25-3"></span>
$$
\mathrm{d}p = v_c \mathrm{d}q + K_{y_B y_B}^c \mathrm{d}y_{cB},\tag{E10}
$$

$$
dx_A + dx_B = d\bar{y}_{cA} + dy_{gA} + dy_{cB} + dy_{gB},
$$
 (E11)

$$
0 = v_g \mathrm{d}y_{gA} + v_c \mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA} + v_c \mathrm{d}y_{cB} + v_g \mathrm{d}y_{gB},\tag{E12}
$$

$$
du_A = p dx_A - K_{y_A}^c d\bar{y}_{cA} - K_y^g dy_{gA},
$$
 (E13)

$$
\mathrm{d}u_B = p \,\mathrm{d}x_B - K_{y_B}^c \mathrm{d}y_{CB} - K_y^g \mathrm{d}y_{gB}.\tag{E14}
$$

From  $(E9)$  $(E9)$  $(E9)$ ,  $(E10)$  and  $(E2)$  $(E2)$  $(E2)$  we infer

<span id="page-25-11"></span><span id="page-25-10"></span><span id="page-25-6"></span><span id="page-25-5"></span><span id="page-25-4"></span>
$$
dy_{gA} = dy_{gB}, \t\t(E15)
$$

and

$$
dy_{cB} = -\frac{v_c - v_g}{v_g K_{y_{B}y_B}^c} dp + \frac{v_c K_{yy}^g}{v_g K_{y_{B}y_B}^c} dy_{gi}.
$$
 (E16)

Making use of  $(E15)$  $(E15)$  in  $(E12)$  $(E12)$  $(E12)$  yields

<span id="page-25-7"></span>
$$
dy_{cB} = -d\bar{y}_{cA} - \frac{2v_g}{v_c} dy_{gi}.
$$
 (E17)

Next, we combine  $(E16)$  and  $(E17)$  to obtain

<span id="page-26-2"></span>
$$
dy_{gi} = \frac{v_c (v_c - v_g)}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c} dp - \frac{K_{y_B y_B}^c}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c} d\bar{y}_{cA}.
$$
 (E18)

Inserting  $(E15)$ ,  $(E17)$  and  $(E18)$  in  $(E11)$  implies

$$
dx_A + dx_B = \frac{2(v_c - v_g)}{v_c} dy_{gi}
$$
  
= 
$$
\frac{2(v_c - v_g)^2}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c} dp - \frac{2(v_c - v_g)K_{y_B y_B}^c}{v_c \left[v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c\right]} d\bar{y}_{cA}
$$
 (E19)

Observe that  $\mu > 0$ .

Taking advantage of  $(E8)$  in  $(E19)$  yields 

$$
\left[\frac{2(v_c - v_g)^2}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c} - \frac{1}{P'_A} - \frac{1}{P'_B}\right] dp = \mu d\bar{y}_{cA},
$$
(E20)

which implies

<span id="page-26-5"></span><span id="page-26-4"></span><span id="page-26-3"></span><span id="page-26-0"></span>
$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} > 0. \tag{E21}
$$

In view of  $(E8)$ ,  $(E19)$ ,  $(E15)$  and  $(E16)$  it holds

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}x_A}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}x_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0. \tag{E22}
$$

Finally, we consider the welfare changes in  $(E13)$  and  $(E14)$ . Making use of  $(E11)$  yields

$$
du_A = (p - K_{yA}^c) d\bar{y}_{cA} + (p - K_y^g) dy_{gA} + (dy_{cB} + dy_{gB} - dx_B)p,
$$
 (E23)

$$
du_B = (p - K_{yB}^c) dy_{CB} + (p - K_y^g) dy_{gB} + (d\bar{y}_{CA} + dy_{gA} - dx_A)p.
$$
 (E24)

Accounting for  $(E2)$  and  $(E3)$  in  $(E23)$  and  $(E24)$  we obtain

$$
\frac{du_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q\left(v_c + v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right) + \tau + \underbrace{\left(\frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} - \frac{dx_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right)}_{-} p, \tag{E25}
$$

<span id="page-26-1"></span>
$$
\frac{du_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q\left(v_c \frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right) + \underbrace{\left(1 + \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} - \frac{dx_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right)}_{+} p,
$$
\n(E26)

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u_A + \mathrm{d}u_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left[ v_c + v_c \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \left( \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) \right] + \tau = \tau > 0. \tag{E27}
$$

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The signs under the last round brackets in ([E25](#page-26-0)) and ([E26](#page-26-1)) follow from  $dx_A = dx_B$ ,  $\mathrm{d}y_{gA} = \mathrm{d}y_{gB}, \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}}$  $\frac{dy_{CB}}{d\bar{y}_{CA}}$  < 0 and [\(E11\)](#page-25-8).

# **Appendix F: Unilateral Phase‑Out of Coal with International Electricity Markets and Cancelling Emission Allowances (Scenario 2 with trade)**

The equilibrium of the model is characterized by  $(E1)$  $(E1)$ – $(E4)$  $(E4)$ ,  $(E6)$  $(E6)$ – $(E7)$  $(E7)$  and  $(D1)$ , Total differentiation of these equations yields

<span id="page-27-0"></span>
$$
dp = P_i' dx_i \quad i = A, B,
$$
\n(F1)

$$
\mathrm{d}p = v_g \mathrm{d}q + K_{yy}^g \mathrm{d}y_{gi} \quad i = A, B,\tag{F2}
$$

$$
\mathrm{d}p = v_c \mathrm{d}q + K_{y_B y_B}^c \mathrm{d}y_{cB},\tag{F3}
$$

$$
dx_A + dx_B = d\bar{y}_{cA} + dy_{gA} + dy_{cB} + dy_{gB},
$$
 (F4)

$$
v_c \mathrm{d} \bar{y}_{cA} = v_g \mathrm{d} y_{gA} + v_c \mathrm{d} \bar{y}_{cA} + v_c \mathrm{d} y_{cB} + v_g \mathrm{d} y_{gB},\tag{F5}
$$

$$
du_A = p \, dx_A - K_{y_A}^c \, d\bar{y}_{cA} - K_y^g \, dy_{gA},\tag{F6}
$$

$$
\mathrm{d}u_B = p \,\mathrm{d}x_B - K_{y_B}^c \mathrm{d}y_{CB} - K_y^g \mathrm{d}y_{gB}.\tag{F7}
$$

Using the same steps of rearrangement as in Appendix E we obtain

<span id="page-27-3"></span><span id="page-27-2"></span>
$$
dy_{gA} = dy_{gB}, \t\t(F8)
$$

<span id="page-27-1"></span>
$$
dy_{cB} = -\frac{2v_g}{v_c} dy_{gi},
$$
 (F9)

$$
dy_{gi} = \frac{v_c (v_c - v_g)}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_g y_B}^c} dp,
$$
 (F10)

$$
dx_A + dx_B = \frac{2(v_c - v_g)^2}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_B y_B}^c} dp + d\bar{y}_{cA}.
$$
 (F11)

Combining  $(F1)$  $(F1)$  and  $(F11)$  $(F11)$  we get

$$
\left[\frac{2(v_c - v_g)^2}{v_c^2 K_{yy}^g + 2v_g^2 K_{y_g y_g}^c} - \frac{1}{P'_A} - \frac{1}{P'_B}\right] dp = -d\bar{y}_{cA},
$$
\n(F12)

which implies

<span id="page-28-6"></span>
$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0. \tag{F13}
$$

In view of  $(F8)$  $(F8)$ – $(F10)$  $(F10)$  and  $(F13)$  $(F13)$  we get

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}x_A}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} > 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}x_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} > 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0, \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} < 0 \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} > 0. \tag{F14}
$$

The consumption welfare changes are given by

$$
\frac{du_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q\left(v_c + v_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right) + \underbrace{\left(\frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} - \frac{dx_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}}\right)}_{+} p + \tau,
$$
\n(F15)

$$
\frac{du_B}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left( v_c \frac{dy_{cB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \frac{dy_{gB}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) + \left( 1 + \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} - \frac{dx_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) p
$$
\n
$$
= -qv_g \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} + \underbrace{\left( 1 + \frac{dy_{gA}}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} - \frac{dx_A}{d\bar{y}_{cA}} \right)}_{-}
$$
\n(F16)

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}u_A + \mathrm{d}u_B}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} = q \left[ v_c + v_c \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{cB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + v_g \left( \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gA}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} + \frac{\mathrm{d}y_{gB}}{\mathrm{d}\bar{y}_{cA}} \right) \right] + \tau = qv_c + \tau > 0. \tag{F17}
$$

The results are summarized in Proposition [5.](#page-15-0)

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