



National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

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SUMMARY

DOCTORAL THESES

THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: AMBITION AND REALITY IN THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, ASSESSING OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

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Abstract:

The current research paper aims to establish the role of the European Green Pact in the current international context given the issue of global warming and the anarchic nature of the international system that does not seem to be able to support a uniform and cohesive transition to green technology. At the same time having numerous factors that seem to oppose the attempt of the European Green Pact to achieve its objectives, such as the dynamics of the acceleration of phenomena specific to increasingly aggressive climate change or the impossibility of limiting or mitigating pollution by other states with a significant impact in what regarding global CO2 emissions, the prospect of a reversal of current climate trends in order to save the planet seems increasingly difficult to achieve, which entails a failure of the European Union's environmental political project.

Chapter I

The relevance and effectiveness of the European Green Deal in the current international context: a critical analysis

The main objective of this research is to determine the relevance of the implementation of the measures to combat climate change stipulated in the European Green Pact in the current international context, and if these, once implemented, will give the predicted results in the absence of the involvement of all international actors in this endeavor. Thus, the hypothesis of the paper is deduced as the following: *Does the European Green Pact bring a relevant change regarding the environment in the current international context in the absence of the implementation of similar measures by the other great powers of the world?*

The ecological doctrine emphasizes the importance of the human-nature relationship, promoting the use of natural resources according to the real needs of the population, not the desire for uncontrolled economic growth. This differs from classical political doctrines by the emphasis placed on limiting economic development and eliminating the phenomenon of overproduction and consumerism, the main factors of pollution.

The European Green Deal (EGD) is an ambitious project aimed at creating a sustainable economy in the European Union. Although it enjoys political support, EGD faces major resistance, especially in the current geopolitical context. The war in Ukraine and international tensions have

complicated the implementation of EGD measures, and the lack of coherent global support represents a significant vulnerability.

The European Green Deal requires international cooperation and the adoption of environmental values globally to be effective. Institutional adaptability and political engagement are crucial. The energy crisis and the need for energy security, amplified by the war in Ukraine, have underlined Europe's dependence on fossil fuels and highlighted the urgent need for a green energy transition.

The European Green Deal is an essential step towards a sustainable and climate-neutral European economy. However, its success depends on the European Union's ability to navigate the current geopolitical and economic challenges, maintain political support and mobilize the necessary resources to implement the proposed measures. Adopting an integrated perspective that includes economic, social and environmental interests is vital to ensure a sustainable future for European citizens.

Chapter II

Global climate trends and environmental change impact analysis

This chapter analyzes the global climate trends of the last decades, focusing on the evolution of climate change and its impact, in the context of the measures of the European Ecological Pact.

IPCC Studies and Findings (1990 - 1994):

Since 1990, IPCC studies have highlighted the increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities. The average global temperature increased by 0.3-0.6°C during the 20th century. The greenhouse effect was initially thought to be caused by natural fluctuations, but later studies confirmed the significant influence of human activities.

Further Evolution of Climate Change (1995 - 2000):

The 2001 IPCC report showed that greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise. Global temperatures rose significantly, and the 1990s were the warmest on record. Regional climate change has affected numerous ecosystems and species.

The Global Impact of Pollution on the Environment (2001 - 2010):

Global emissions of CO₂, CH₄ and other gases increased by 70% between 1970 and 2004. IPCC studies from this period highlighted the increase in emissions and environmental impacts, including melting glaciers and rising sea levels.

European Green Deal: Measures and Impact Assessment (2021 - Present):

The European Ecological Pact aims to reduce emissions and promote green technologies. However, the implemented measures are considered insufficient to counteract the rapidity of climate change.

Conclusions:

Comparing IPCC reports from 1990 to 2023 shows that climate change is accelerating. The measures of the European Green Deal are important, but perhaps insufficient to completely reverse the effects of global climate change. International cooperation and rapid action are essential to mitigate environmental impacts.

Chapter III

The impact of international conflicts on the environment and efforts to combat climate change

International conflicts, both conventional and non-conventional, disrupt global environmental protection initiatives, such as those of the European Union through the European Green Deal. Military conflicts divert attention and resources from climate change mitigation measures.

Due to the chemical and biological interconnectedness of the planet, pollution in one area can have long-term effects on the entire planet. International conflicts exacerbate this problem by directly polluting the soil, water and air. Military conflicts release large amounts of greenhouse gases and pollutants into the atmosphere, affecting the quality of the environment. Examples include the Gulf War, where oil wells set on fire by Iraqi forces led to massive pollution of the region.

Social and military conflicts intensify the neglect of the natural environment, leading to ecological imbalances. The use of conventional and unconventional weapons in conflicts destroys flora and fauna, contributing to climate change.

Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns and rising sea levels are putting pressure on the MENA region's infrastructure and economy. These challenges accentuate social disparities and can trigger conflicts. The MENA region needs to prioritize climate change adaptation and resilience efforts, although their governments face difficulties in creating policies that balance economic expansion and emissions reductions.

Climate change amplifies the risk of conflict, and armed conflict exacerbates the effects of climate change through environmental destruction and massive pollution. Examples include the Syrian conflict, linked to drought caused by climate change. Fossil fuel-rich nations are reluctant to transition to green technologies because of the economic costs. However, regions such as MENA have made concrete commitments on climate change, although implementation is difficult.

The armed conflict in Ukraine exemplifies the devastating impact of wars on the environment. Soil, water and air pollution from fuel explosions and burning has long-term consequences for human health and the environment. The European Union's efforts to combat climate change must be supported by international cooperation. The European Green Deal is an example of an ambitious initiative that requires global support to succeed.

Chapter IV

Implementation of the European Green Deal in Romania: challenges and perspectives

Romania, as a member state of the European Union, faces challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the European Green Pact. The choice of Romania for this case study is relevant due to its geographical position, level of development and diversity in terms of green technology. Romania has both the capacity to comply with EU requirements and sufficient political and bureaucratic deficiencies that complicate the transition.

Romania still relies significantly on fossil fuels, with coal mining industries concentrated in Hunedoara and Gorj counties. The integrated national energy and climate plan envisages the inclusion of 30.7% of renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030. However, regional discrepancies and the necessary infrastructure investments remain major challenges.

The accentuated regional disparities and the cumbersome adaptation to the new energy requirements put pressure on various counties, especially in the southwest of Romania. Upgrading

and adapting current energy providers to green technology is essential to avoid monopolies and economic vulnerabilities.

The Romanian agricultural sector, crucial for the economy, is affected by climate change and new EU regulations. The reduction of pesticide uses and other ecological measures imposed by the Green Deal are viewed with skepticism by farmers, who demand exemptions to maintain agricultural competitiveness and productivity.

The war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic have amplified the challenges for Romania, bringing additional pollution and destabilizing the energy market. These external events demonstrated the need for measures adapted to the specificities of each member state, including in combating cross-border pollution.

Romania is making considerable efforts to adapt to the measures of the European Green Deal, but faces major challenges due to aging infrastructure, energy poverty and the impact of external factors. Despite the progress, the long-term success of the Green Deal in Romania and other member states will depend on more effective international coordination and a realistic adaptation of policies to the specific context of each state.

The European Green Deal, although ambitious, risks not delivering the desired results without a global concerted effort to reduce emissions and protect the environment.

Chapter V

Evolutionary scenarios of climate change and the effects of the European Green Deal: a global approach

This chapter explores possible scenarios for the evolution of climate change and the impact of the European Green Deal at a global level. In the context of climate change, three main scenarios are presented that illustrate the different directions in which the situation could evolve, depending on the values and policies adopted by global political elites.

Scenario I: The need for global synergy and international regulations:

This scenario is based on the values of the European Green Deal and presents a future where all states, including the biggest polluters, adopt strict environmental principles and tough legislative regulations to combat pollution.

The success of this scenario depends on global cooperation, with strict regulations and the adaptation of all countries to ecological standards. The priority would be the efficient management of waste, especially in the most polluted regions, such as the Middle East and South Asia. Widespread development and implementation of green technologies would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Scenario II: The negative effects of continued uncontrolled pollution, natural disasters and public health crises:

This scenario presents a bleak future where pollution continues unchecked and efforts to combat climate change are abandoned. Increased global warming would lead to extreme weather events, floods, droughts and devastating fires. Rising temperatures and increased pollution would cause serious health problems, including respiratory diseases and the spread of tropical diseases in temperate areas. Accelerating the extinction of plant and animal species would destabilize ecosystems, affecting food production and biodiversity.

Scenario III: Human adaptability and resilience to climate change, a solution:

This scenario explores the human capacity to adapt to climate change and the implementation of resilience measures. Adaptability depends on the level of human development and the ability of societies to integrate the necessary changes. Promoting sustainable agriculture and diversifying crops to withstand changing climate conditions. Developing weather-resistant urban infrastructure and promoting green cities to minimize climate impact.

Conclusions:

The scenarios presented highlight the complexity of climate change challenges and the importance of a concerted global approach. The European Green Deal, although ambitious, requires international collaboration and realistic adaptation to the specific context of each state to be successful in the long term. Ultimately, combating climate change will depend on global synergy and humanity's ability to adapt to new climate realities.