



# Environmental Science

*An Indian Journal*

*Critical Review*

ESAIJ, 12(4), 2016 [151-153]

## Some doubts the European Union (EU) energy policy is impacting on the carbon and hydrocarbon fuels consumption or the climate

A.Parker

School of Engineering and Physical Science, James Cook University, Townsville QLD 4811, (AUSTRALIA)

E-mail: albert.parker.2014@gmail.com; albert.parker@jcu.edu.au

### ABSTRACT

It is shown how the European Union (EU) energy policy is not impacting on the carbon and hydrocarbon fuels consumption within Europe or the climate, as the consumption of coal, natural gas and oil has not globally reduced during this century of no warming. Actually, the consumption of carbon and hydrocarbon fuels has been only stable in Europe, and increasing elsewhere. © 2016 Trade Science Inc. - INDIA

### CARBON AND HYDROCARBON FUELS CONSUMPTION IN EUROPE

Current European Union (EU) plans require the accountancy books carbon dioxide emissions to be reduced 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, or also the 20% of the energy needs covered through renewable energy sources, claims that will not translate in a better carbon dioxide net balance emission/sequestration for Europe and the world, and certainly will not affect the world global temperatures. The EU is now aiming even higher with a new plan aiming at which raises the de-carbonization targets to a reduction of the accountancy books carbon dioxide emissions to be reduced 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, or also the 27% of the energy needs covered through renewable energy sources.

According to the EU, between 1990 and 2012 the EU succeeded in cutting its GHG emissions by 18%. May be this is true in the accountancy books, but if we look carefully at the consumption of coal and hydrocarbon from [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov) for Europe 1990 to present, things does not seem that good. Europe

does not exactly include only the EU countries.

In the definition of United States Energy Information Administration (EIA)<sup>[1]</sup>, Europe includes Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Former Czechoslovakia, Former Serbia and Montenegro, Former Yugoslavia, France, Germany, Germany, East, Germany, West, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. The EU was not always large as it is today. When European countries started to cooperate in 1951, only Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands participated. However, in 2013 the EU reached with the accession of Croatia its current size of 28 member countries. The difference is basically Turkey that is not exactly Europe, plus some former Soviet Union countries that the EIA includes in the Euroasia region, and few small countries that do not make too much difference in the consumption

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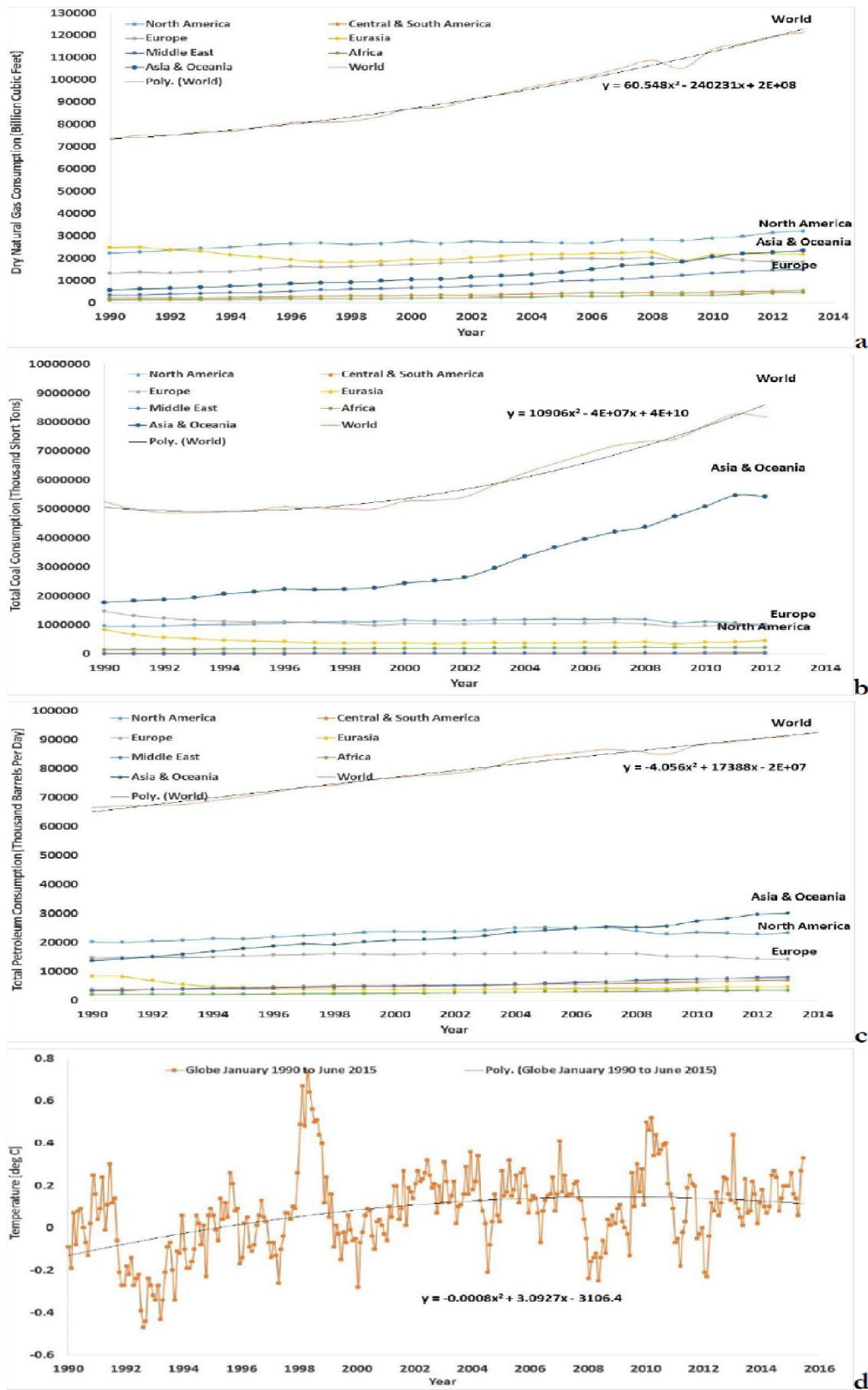


Figure 1 : Consumption of carbon and hydrocarbon fuels for selected geographical areas (data from www.eia.gov, downloaded July 31, 2015) and global lower troposphere temperature (data from vortex.nsstc.uah.edu, downloaded July 31, 2015). a) Dry natural gas consumption. b) Total coal consumption. c) Total petroleum consumption. d) Lower troposphere temperature

result.

Within Europe, in 1990, the Dry Natural Gas Consumption, Figure 1.a, was 13,360.4 Billion Cubic Feet, while in 2012 it was 18,685.59 Billion Cubic Feet. So basically the consumption of natural gas drastically increased of 39.9%. In 1990, the Total Coal Consumption, Figure 1.b, was 1,480,983 Thousand Short Tons, while in 2012 it was 1,026,713 Thousand Short Tons. The significant 30.7% reduction was however not the result of the increasingly relevant expenditure in renewable energy. The drastic reduction of coal use occurred in the early 1990s, as the 1995 Total Coal Consumption was already 1,110,285 Thousand Short Tons, only 7.6% more than today, and in 1999 the Total Coal Consumption was 992,115.1 Thousand Short Tons, that is even less than today. Therefore, the use of coal reduced not certainly because of the interest towards wind energy and other renewables. Finally, in 1990, Total Petroleum Consumption, Figure 1.c, was 14,695.74 Thousand Barrels Per Day, while in 2012 it was 14,438.52 Thousand Barrels Per Day, with a minimal reduction of only 1.8%.

The trend in the consumption of carbon and hydrocarbon fuels in North America, that according to the EIA includes Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, Mexico, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and the United States, was not that different from Europe. In 1990, the Dry Natural Gas Consumption, Figure 1.a, was 22,469.62 Billion Cubic Feet, while in 2012 it was 31,500.87 Billion Cubic Feet. Basically the consumption of natural gas drastically increased of 40.2%, almost exactly same of Europe. In 1990, the Total Coal Consumption, Figure 1.b, was 966,992 Thousand Short Tons, while in 2012 it was 955,748.2 Thousand Short Tons, with an increase of 1.8%. Finally, in 1990, Total Petroleum Consumption, Figure 1.c, was 20,318.86 Thousand Barrels Per Day, while in 2012 it was 22,939.83 Thousand Barrels Per Day, with an increase of 12.9%. So basically North America did even worse than Europe, possibly because the industrial production was not subject to the same drastic reduction as it occurred in Europe.

It seems that apart from the unreasonable investments in renewable energy, and the increased ad-

ministration and control and revenue rising in name of the fight to the evil carbon, the use of carbon and hydrocarbon fuels in Europe (and North America) has not reduced during the first 15 years of this century, when the claims of catastrophic anthropogenic global warming have become more and more extreme, the support to the science of global warming has further increased, and the energy policies have been drastically revised towards taxation of carbon and assistance to renewables.

Over the first 15 years of this century, where the global consumption of carbon and hydrocarbon fuels has risen sharply, this rising global carbon dioxide emission related to the increased carbon and hydrocarbon fuels consumption, has undeniably not produced any significant change of the global temperatures, as the lower troposphere temperatures (LTT) (data from the National Space Science and Technology Center NSSTC at the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH),<sup>[2]</sup>), Figure 1.d, clearly show that if there was warming 1990 to 1998, since 1998 there is no warming any more, and the warming rate is consistently reducing over the time window as clearly indicated by the parabolic fitting of temperatures.

## CONCLUSIONS

From January 1990 to present, the warming rate of global temperatures has reduced drastically, up to the present no warming, while the EU carbon and hydrocarbon fuels consumption has been basically stable and the global coal and hydrocarbon consumption has drastically increased. The suspect that the EU claimed goals of a reduction in the carbon dioxide emission from accountancy exercises has nothing to do with a genuine interest towards the environment or the mankind in general is stronger than ever before.

## REFERENCES

- [1] [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov), Data downloaded, July 31, (2015).
- [2] [vortex.nsstc.uah.edu](http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu), Data downloaded July 31, (2015).