

European CO2 Emissions Trading System and its implementation in the Netherlands Impact Assessment 2009

The Court of Audit tracks whether ministers follow up its audit recommendations and fulfil their undertakings. It does so over a longer period of time, often five years or more. It publishes the results in Impact Assessments. The subject of this Impact Assessment is our 2007 audit of the EU system in place to reduce CO2 emissions. As part of the system, enterprises that generate large quantities of CO2 must buy emission allowances. If they succeed in reducing their emissions they can sell excess allowances to other companies.

We recommend that the Ministers of EZ and VROM carry out a cost/benefit analysis of each of the instruments in the Dutch sustainable energy policy and then reconsider their use. We also recommend that the NEa complete the switch to risk-based supervision quickly. We hope the thematic study it has announced will allow for this.

The Ministers of EZ and VROM expect the 'Environmental Policy Instruments Interaction' project being conducted by the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis will provide sufficient information to take well-considered decisions on sustainable environmental and energy policy.

The ministers recognise the importance of NEa switching to a more risk-based form of supervision. They expect the necessary IT process to be in place in 2010.

The ministers are investigating opportunities to use information that is already available to the verifiers to expand the verification statements submitted to the NEa. The outcome of the thematic study will be used in European talks on the verification of emission reports and the accreditation and supervision of verifiers.