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Erik Ansink, Hans-Peter Weikard, Cees Withagen

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International environmental agreements with support^{*}

Erik Ansink[†]

Hans-Peter Weikard[‡]

Cees Withagen[§]

Abstract

We augment the standard cartel formation game from non-cooperative coalition theory, often applied in the context of international environmental agreements, with the possibility that singletons support coalition formation without becoming coalition members themselves. We assume their support takes the form of a monetary transfer to the coalition, in order to induce larger coalitions, higher levels of public good provision and higher payoffs. We show that, under mild conditions on the costs and benefits of contributing to the public good (e.g. abatement of greenhouse gas emissions), there exist equilibria with support. Allowing for support increases payoffs to each of three types of agents: members, supporters and free-riders.

Keywords: Coalition formation; Public goods; Support; Transfers; International Environmental Agreements

JEL classification: C72; D02; H41; Q54

1 Introduction

We augment the standard cartel formation game from non-cooperative coalition theory, often applied in the context of international environmental agreements (IEAs) (cf. Hoel, 1992; Carraro and Siniscalco, 1993; Barrett, 1994), with the possibility that singletons support coalition formation without becoming coalition members themselves. Rather, their support takes the form of a monetary transfer to the coalition. The transfer is paid in order to incentivize other agents to participate in a coalition that coordinates their members' actions to provide a public good, for example abatement of emissions. In the

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[†]Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Tinbergen Institute.

[‡]Wageningen University.

[§]IPAG Business School (Paris), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Tinbergen Institute.

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