



Oh, Germany!

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I was stunned, happily, by a [press release](#) from Germany this morning.

German scientists are attempting to persuade the German government to take the lead in adopting a carbon fee & dividend, and push Europe to that policy.

Depending upon Angela Merkel, this could be the first effective step toward solving the climate crisis.

Germany has reduced its emissions by one-third, but at a cost that few nations in the world can afford.¹

It will not be an easy political task. In 2013,² at the request of Friends of the Earth, Europe, I made a whirlwind trip to five European capitals and spoke to the European Parliament, encouraging Europe to put a higher tax on tar sands oil than regular oil to account for tar sands greater CO₂ emissions. We thought that we won, but heavy pressure from the United States and Canada overwhelmed our efforts.

Then I made another trip to Europe to speak with the science advisor to the European Commissioner about fee and dividend. She whole-heartedly agreed with the idea, but said “we must convince them,” waving at the buildings of European bureaucrats in Brussels. She offered to arrange a talk. I suggested that Shi-Ling Hsu would be a better speaker than me. I decided to focus my energy on China and the United States. It seemed more likely that they could lead.

Maybe I was wrong. Pray for Germany, or cross your fingers, whatever you do. It will not be easy. It will be a very long, hard road. But maybe, just maybe, Germany might lead us with the first step.

¹ Part of the progress was also the easy closing of dirty energy sources in East Germany upon reunification.

² [Europe Standing Tall Against a Rogue State](#): Discussion of European trip re tar sands.