

Pass-Through of  
CO<sub>2</sub> Emission  
Costs to The  
Italian Electricity  
Price in the Third  
Phase of EU-ETS:  
a VECM Analysis

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Caporin, Fulvio  
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# Pass-Through of CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Costs to The Italian Electricity Price in the Third Phase of EU-ETS: a VECM Analysis

Massimiliano Caporin, Fulvio Fontini\*, Samuele  
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## Introduction

Passed Through of  
CO2 Emission  
Contracts: The  
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Procurement and  
Phase of EU-ETS  
a MEM Analysis

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- The electricity sector is the largest sector in the EU-ETS
- The (theoretical) purpose of ETS is to internalize the pollution cost

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- Static effect: higher cost  $\Rightarrow$  higher end-price, given rigidity of demand = "pass-through"

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- Static effect: higher cost  $\Rightarrow$  higher end-price, given rigidity of demand = "pass-through"
- Dynamic effect: higher cost  $\Rightarrow$  substitution with less emitting technology in the long run

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- In the literature: high volatility of pass-through rates

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- In the literature: high volatility of pass-through rates

paper	markets	pass-through rates	phases
Sijm et al. 2006	DE, NE	60-117, 64-81	I
Fabra and Reguant, 2014	SP	70-140 (28-97)	I
Honkatukia et al. 2008	FI	75-95	I
Hintermann	DE	81-111	I and II
Bariss et al. 2016	NP	55 NP, 65 baltic	I and II
Bunn and Fezzi 2008	DE, UK	42	I
Allanmua and Kivaa 2015	FR, DE	18	II
Jouvet and Sollier, 2013	EU	*	I and II

\* = large range, from negative to positive coeff.

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Our research questions

- 1 What has been the pass-through of ETS in the Italian electricity prices during the third phase of EU-ETS?



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- 1 What has been the pass-through of ETS in the Italian electricity prices during the third phase of EU-ETS?
- 2 Is there a difference in the pass-through between peak and off-peak prices?
- 3 Dynamic analysis: has the pass-through rate changed overtime during the observation period? If so, how?

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Our research questions

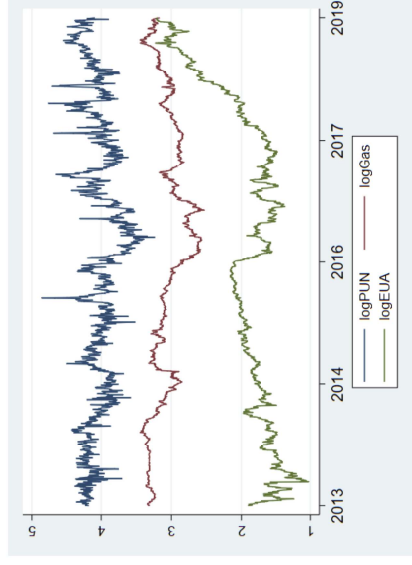
- 1 What has been the pass-through of ETS in the Italian electricity prices during the third phase of EU-ETS?
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- 3 Dynamic analysis: has the pass-through rate changed overtime during the observation period? If so, how?
- 4 What about the causality order? do ETS and gas prices affect electricity prices, and/or vice versa?



# Data

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Figure 1. Graphical representation of electricity (PUN), Allowances and gas prices.



Sample period: 01/01/2013-31/12/2018 (1565 observations). All data are in natural logs.

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- For non-stationary time series, OLS leads to spurious relationship

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- However, if two (or more) series are  $I(1)$ , we can test if their liner combination is stationary  $\equiv$  long-run relationship

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## Introduction

- For non-stationary time series, OLS leads to spurious relationship
- However, if two (or more) series are  $I(1)$ , we can test if their liner combination is stationary  $\equiv$  long-run relationship
- We first test for stationarity and cointegration, then apply the VECM

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## Data analysis

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We run a KPSS, ADF and bound test (Pesaran et al 2001) to identify the existence of cointegration. Results justify the use of a VECM; there is a single cointegrating relationship for the three-variate model, two cointegrating relationships for the four-variate model

## Methodology: VECM

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$$\Delta X_t = \alpha \beta' X_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \Delta X_{t-j} + \delta D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (1)$$

where  $X_t$  is the vector of the modeled variables (in logs),  $\beta' X_{t-1}$  is the disequilibrium error, and  $\beta$  contains the cointegration coefficients. The vector  $\alpha$  contains the adjustment coefficients to past disequilibrium. The summation monitors the short-run dynamic of the series growth rates.  $D_t$  contains a set of deterministic variables, namely a constant and a linear trend

# Results. VECM, static analysis. Full-sample pass-through

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Table 6. The cointegrating equation

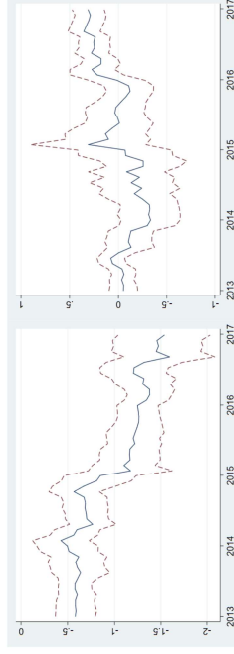
	Models			
	1	2	3	4
LogPUN	1	-	-	-
LogPUNp	-	1	-	-
LogPUNop	-	-	1	0
LogGas	-0.729*** (0.078)	-0.749*** (0.097)	-0.694*** (0.065)	-0.745*** (0.098)
LogEUA	-0.069** (0.038)	-0.077* (0.047)	-0.061** (0.031)	-0.077* (0.047)
PUN	-0.140*** (0.017)	-	-	-
PUNp	-	-0.151*** (0.019)	-	-0.193*** (0.031)
PUNop	-	-	-0.145*** (0.018)	-0.154*** (0.020)
Gas	0.005 (0.003)	0.002 (0.005)	0.008** (0.004)	-0.010** (0.004)
EUA	0.003 (0.006)	0.002 (0.002)	0.004 (0.007)	-0.002 (0.009)

The table reports the values of the coefficients of equations 4 (models 1, 2, 3) and 5 (model 4), respectively, and the standard errors between parenthesis. We denote by \*\*\*, \*\*, \* the coefficients which are statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% confidence levels, respectively.

# Results: Dynamic analysis. Rolling windows pass-through. Model 1

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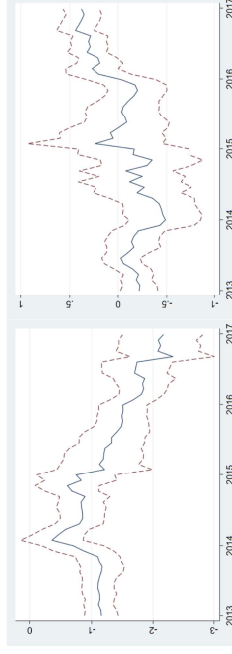


These graphs report the Betas and their confidence intervals of natural gas (left hand side) and allowances (right-hand side) obtained from the rolling analysis. Model 1: PUN

## Results: Dynamic analysis. Rolling windows pass-through. Model 2

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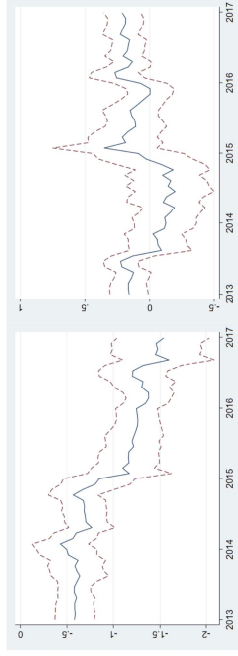
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*These graphs report the betas and their confidence intervals of natural gas (left hand side) and allowances (right-hand side) obtained from the rolling analysis. Model 2: peak PUA*

# Results: Dynamic analysis. Rolling windows pass-through. Model 3

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These graphs report the betas and their confidence intervals of natural gas (left hand side) and allowances (right-hand side) obtained from the rolling analysis. Model 2:off- peak PUN

# Results: Short-run adjustment: causality order. IRFs. Model1

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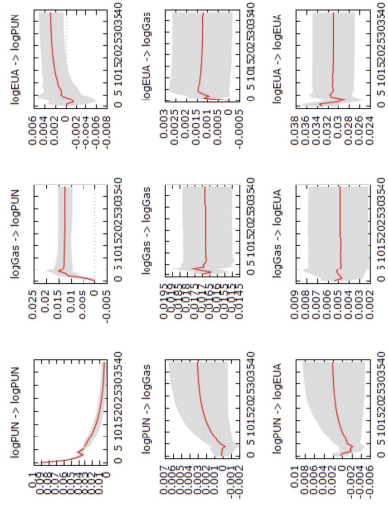


Figure 3: impulse response functions of the VECM model 1 (three variables, PUN, one cointegration relation). The shaded area represents the 90% confidence interval.

# Results: Short-run adjustment: causality order. IRFs. Model4

Passè Through of CO2 Emission Causes the Italian Electricity Production in the Phase of EDETS a VECM Analysis

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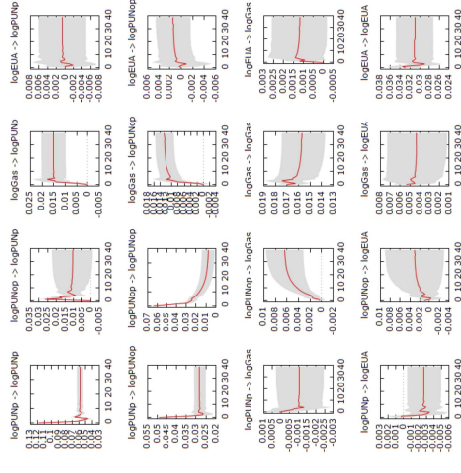


Figure 4: Impulse response functions of the VECM model 4 (four variables, peak and off-peak PUA, two cointegration relations). The shaded area represents the 50% confidence interval.

## Conclusions

- Results show a high pass-through rate of natural gas prices

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## Conclusions

- Results show a high pass-through rate of natural gas prices
- There is a significant yet limited pass-through rate of allowances (slightly more for peak prices than off-peak ones)

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## Conclusions

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- There is a significant yet limited pass-through rate of allowances (slightly more for peak prices than off-peak ones)
- The dynamic analysis shows that the pass through rate of natural gas has risen overtime
- The pass-through rate of allowances highly decreases overtime and becomes negative = substitution effect. However ...

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- The **IRF** show that the substitution effect can hardly be claimed to be caused by the allowances' prices

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## Conclusions

- Overall, a limited importance of EU-ETS for electricity prices in Italy
- Highly inefficient (no "polluters pay principle") and ineffective (no causality) tool to induce a transition towards a carbon neutral energy sector in Italy

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