Clean Energy Transition and Emerging Protectionist Trade Policies Amid Green Industrialisation: Policy Recommendations for COP31

Asst. Prof. Dr. Özgül Uyan

Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Seydikemer School of Applied Sciences, Department of Customs Management

Abstract

Clean energy transition and green industrialisation policies developed to address global climate change are reshaping the structure of international trade and the competitive conditions faced by countries. While carbon regulations, green subsidies, and strategic industrial policies support the achievement of environmental objectives, they also give rise to new forms of protectionism.

This study examines the interaction between policies supporting the clean energy transition and emerging protectionist measures in international trade. Particular attention is given to the impacts of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Emissions Trading System (ETS), and green industrial incentives on developing countries.

The primary objective of the study is to analyse the relationships between the clean energy transition, critical raw materials, and protectionist trade policies and to develop policy recommendations aimed at aligning environmental objectives with international trade rules.

The research is expected to draw on relevant academic literature, reports from national and international organisations, policy documents, sectoral data, and information to be obtained from local stakeholders.

The significance of the study for Türkiye is particularly related to the potential impacts of green transition policies on sectors characterised by carbon-intensive production processes. Muğla's marble, mining, cement, and energy sectors are also considered in relation to international carbon regulations and changing trade conditions.

The intended outcome of the research is the preparation of a report containing practical policy recommendations to support Türkiye's adaptation to the green transition, contribute to the management of carbon-related costs, and help maintain international competitiveness.

The study is expected to provide the public and private sectors in developing countries with a guiding framework, within the COP31 process, for aligning international trade policies with decarbonisation objectives and accelerating the clean energy transition in industry.

Keywords: Green industrialisation, clean energy trade, new protectionism, CBAM, international trade policies.

MİDUG Thematic Area: WP5 – Policy and Governance.