

EIF Lunchtime Seminar

The VW affair and the enforcement of EU car emission norms

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Abstract

In late 2015, investigations by the US Environment Protection Agency uncovered that major European car producers cheated their way around EU (and US) car emission standards. The so-called "VW affair" exposed a glaring implementation gap in the regulation of European vehicle emissions. As a rule, EU policy is made at the European level and implemented at the member state level. According to recent scholarship, however, the implementation and even the enforcement of European rules is moving to Brussels. The salience of the VW affair should make car emissions a "most likely" case for this hypothesis. The presentation examines how the EU ensures that car-makers comply with emission standards, where and why the system failed, and how the EU and its member states have responded.

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