



Your guide to the Trade & Climate Nexus

ENTICE Newsletter – March 2026

Global trade, industrial policies and climate action are at the centre of current economic and political debates. Europe is facing growing questions about competitiveness, energy costs and the future of its industrial base. At the same time, climate ambition remains a core priority.

ENTICE works to deepen understanding of how trade, climate and industrial policies interact and how better evidence can support smarter policymaking.

This edition highlights our participation in a podcast discussion, major events, new scientific publications, recent project deliverables, and what's happening right now across the consortium.

Thank you for being part of the ENTICE community!



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1. Spotlight: Debunking Industry's Carbon Pricing Blame Game

European industry is facing strong competition from global rivals while companies are also dealing with high energy prices. Sectors such as steel and chemicals are under significant pressure, and this has intensified political calls to ease regulatory frameworks, including proposals to further expand free emissions allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System.

ENTICE contributed to this debate through a recent episode of ***The Jolt*** podcast by **FORESIGHT Climate and Energy**. Luke Hermwille from our partner Wuppertal Institute took part in the discussion, examining the underlying causes of the current industrial challenges, the role of the EU ETS, and the potential implications of weakening the system.

The episode explores whether carbon pricing is driving Europe's industrial difficulties and considers how changes to the EU ETS could affect both competitiveness and climate goals.

You can listen to the episode [here](#).

2. ENTICE at International Conferences and Policy Dialogues

Over the past months, ENTICE has actively contributed to international discussions on trade, industry and climate through a series of high-level conferences and policy dialogues.

Together with the Green Trade Network, the project co-hosted an expert webinar examining the evolving trade and climate nexus in the aftermath of COP30. The discussion focused on recent developments at COP30, emerging initiatives such as the new UNFCCC Climate–Trade Dialogue, and what these mean for future cooperation on trade and climate policy. You can listen to the discussion [here](#).

Our colleagues at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy also shared insights from the project at the European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE) [Zero Carbon Industry 2026 Conference](#) in Rome from 3-5 February. Discussions at the conference addressed industrial decarbonisation, competitiveness and policy design for a climate neutral industry.

On 15 and 16 December 2025, ENTICE took part in the 4th Conference on Trade, Value Chains and Financial Linkages in the Global Economy, hosted in Rome by Banca d'Italia in collaboration with the European Central Bank and the World Bank Group. The event brought together researchers and policymakers to examine global trade and production networks. As part of the ENTICE project, [research was presented](#) on a novel and fully implementable policy tool, the Leakage Border Adjustment Mechanism (LBAM), designed to limit emissions leakage while reducing trade distortions.

ENTICE also participated in the 18th Annual Meeting of the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium, held from 11 to 13 November 2025 in Búzios, Rio de Janeiro. This global meeting gathers researchers and modellers working on integrated assessment modelling. ENTICE [contributed with three papers](#) addressing industrial policy nationalism, EU mitigation pathways under geopolitical constraints, and the representation of critical mineral supply chains in global economic models.



3. Scientific Publications – 2026 Highlights

1. Model linking for low-carbon transitions: Technical and conceptual challenges and best practices

Published in *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, this article explores the technical and methodological challenges involved in linking energy system and integrated assessment models. It examines how model linking shapes results and provides practical guidance to improve transparency and decision making in low carbon transition analysis.

2. How to consider feasibility aspects of transformation pathways for the industry sector: Implications for energy systems modelling

This study proposes a framework to better integrate feasibility considerations into model-based assessments of industrial transformation pathways. It highlights the importance of accounting for real world constraints when evaluating mitigation strategies.

You can explore all our publications [here](#).

New Deliverables

ENTICE has published two new project deliverables. The report "[Modelling Research Needs](#)" provides a systematic assessment of large-scale macroeconomic and integrated assessment models used to analyse trade, climate and industry interactions. It reviews current modelling capabilities, identifies limitations and structural assumptions, and highlights key research challenges, with particular attention to the representation of international

trade and technological progress. The report “[Reference Scenario and Metrics](#)” establishes a common reference scenario and a harmonised set of quantitative indicators to ensure coherence across ENTICE modelling exercises. It also defines a shared analytical framework to assess trade patterns, industrial structures and environmental outcomes, including greenhouse gas emissions and broader environmental pressures.

Happening Now: ENTICE General Assembly

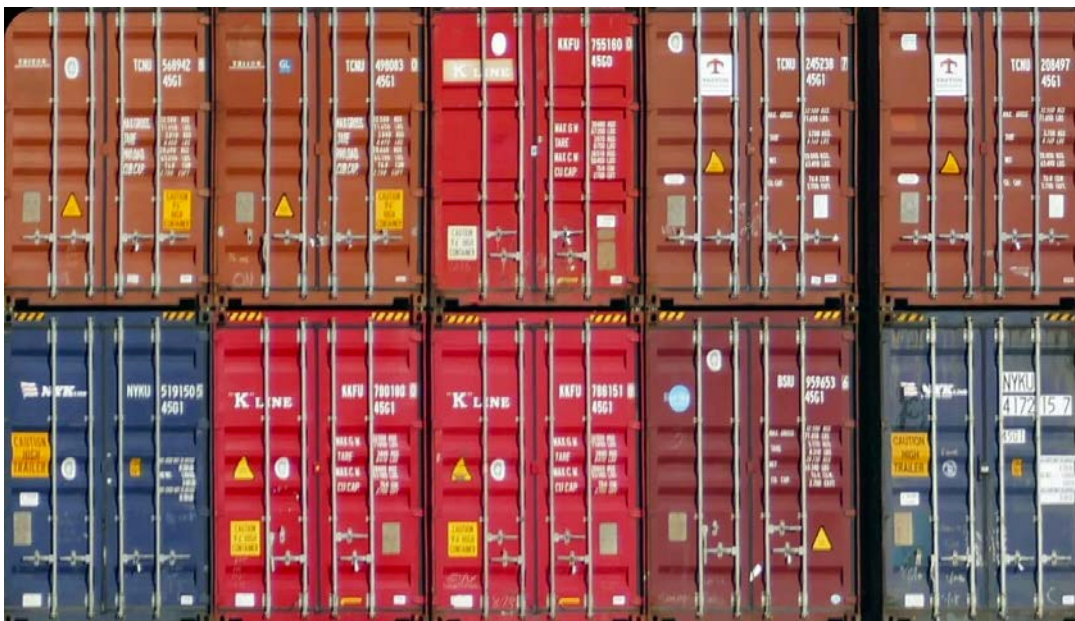
The ENTICE consortium is currently holding its General Assembly. Partners are reviewing progress across work packages, advancing the modelling toolbox and coordinating the next phase of stakeholder engagement activities. The meeting supports alignment across the consortium and prepares upcoming research outputs and policy engagement initiatives. More updates will follow soon.



Looking Ahead

In the coming months ENTICE will continue to publish new research, engage in international discussions and advance its open access modelling tools.

We will also progress our narrative analysis on how trade and climate issues are framed in public debate within the EU. This work examines media coverage and policy discussions to better understand how trade-related climate impacts are presented and perceived across different countries.



Thank you for being part of the ENTICE community.

Your interest and support help us drive forward research at the intersection of trade, industry, and climate policy.

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