Mission

Share best practices and learning from each other’s experience of ETS

Help policy makers recognize design compatibility issues and opportunities at an early stage

Facilitate possible future linking of trading programs

Highlight the key role of cap and trade as an effective climate policy response

Build and strengthen partnerships amongst governments

About

ICAP is an international forum for governments and public authorities that have implemented or are planning to implement emissions trading systems (ETS). ICAP facilitates cooperation and provides a forum to share knowledge and experiences.

ICAP was established in Lisbon, Portugal on 29 October 2007 by more than 15 governments. The partnership has since grown to include 31 members and 4 observer governments.

ICAP brings together countries, regions, states, provinces and cities

ICAP is the only multilateral forum focusing exclusively on cap and trade systems for GHG mitigation, thereby promoting detailed technical discussions on design and compatibility issues

ICAP aims to contribute to the global effort to create a global carbon market

Launched on October 29, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal, by leaders of more than 15 governments, the partnership now counts 31 full members and 4 observers (as of January 2017).
Technical Dialogue

More and more ETS are being established around the world and the first links between systems are becoming operational. Linking different ETSs is the overarching theme for ICAP’s technical dialogue in 2016-17. ICAP established a working group, which is developing a checklist for initiating linking consultations and discussing options for restricted linking as an interim step.

ICAP organizes workshops on other key ETS design elements with a long-term view of establishing a robust global carbon market. Past ETS design topics have included allocation, market oversight, competitiveness, carbon leakage, offsets, and MRV.

Capacity Building

Since 2009, ICAP has held regular training courses on emissions trading for developing and emerging economies. ICAP courses are hosted by world leading experts and provide an intensive introduction to all aspects of ETS design and implementation, targeting policymakers and stakeholders from the non-governmental, academic and private sectors.

ICAP also holds masterclasses to support professionals, who have first-hand experience of ETS design and implementation, in order to deepen their knowledge and reflect on their practical experience.

ETS knowledge sharing

The ICAP website offers a comprehensive ETS knowledge platform, which comprises the Interactive ETS Map, a unique online tool that follows developments in jurisdictions that have implemented or are pursuing cap-and-trade, and provides concise information on the key elements of these systems. The ETS Map also contains background information on emissions trading design elements.

ICAP reports on the latest developments in ETS policy worldwide, releasing regular news updates and a quarterly newsletter, as well as publishing a comprehensive annual Status Report “Emissions Trading Worldwide”. In fall 2015, ICAP will jointly launch an ETS “How to” Handbook with the World Bank’s Partnership for Market Readiness. This will serve as a practical in-depth guide for policy-makers interested in emissions trading.

ICAP also regularly holds events to share knowledge about emissions trading and showcase the latest developments around the world: at side events during the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs), Carbon Expo, as well as one-off events like the ICAP-IETA High Level Dialogue on Carbon Pricing in conjunction with the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in 2014.