

Framework-Project: The Impact of Regulation on Innovation in European Industry

Promising Research Agenda

Der Einfluß von Regulierung auf Innovationen wird viel diskutiert aber selten analysiert. Die Debatte ist durch fehlende systematische empirische Grundlagen gekennzeichnet. Ein Großprojekt des Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) arbeitet daran, diese Wissenslücke zu schließen, um eine effiziente Ausgestaltung der Regulierung zu ermöglichen.

The specific objectives of the framework-project are:

- to develop a methodological approach which considers the complexity and interdependent structures of the multitude of parameters influencing innovation behaviour of companies;
- to apply this approach to case studies;
- to make policy recommendations, based on regulations designed to promote innovation throughout industry.

The framework-project is being carried out by IPTS in co-operation with European Commission's Directorate General for Industry (DG III). Six projects are carried out by partners in several European countries.

1. The Impact of Single Market Regulation on Innovation

In the last few years, a wide-ranging harmonisation of regulations has been achieved, towards an EU-Single Market. However, it is still unclear what the effects are on innovation behaviour within industry. The focus of this study is to investigate the impact of product regulations on innovation within the medical device industry.

2. Methodological Approaches to Environmental Regulation and Innovation

The objective of the project is to develop a common methodological approach, which recognises the reciprocal and multifaceted nature of the relationship between environmental regulation and innovation. This approach must consider

the styles and structures of policy implementation, the framework of environmental regulation, in addition to internal and external factors affecting innovation behaviour.

3. Regulation and Innovation in the Chemical Industry

The chemical industry is one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the EU, an important producer of products for other sectors, and is subject to some of the most comprehensive regulation. At the same time, innovation is a key factor to its competitiveness. Consequently, it is very important to encourage the synergy between regulation and innovation. The objective of this project is to make a comparative study of the impact of new substances notification systems on innovation in the chemical sector of the EU, Japan and the USA.

4. Regulation and Innovation in the Recycling Sector

As part of the European environmental agenda, material recycling is an integral part of waste management, and likely to become more impor-

tant. However, research suggests that there are a number of inefficiencies. In particular, companies involved in recycling often exhibit lower levels of technological and organisational development and thus there is considerable scope to improve performance and increase competitiveness. The objective of the project is to bring together this concern with the unresolved questions involving the impact of regulation and innovation.

5. Regulation and Innovation in the Area of End-of-Life Vehicles

End-of-Life vehicle (ELV) recycling is an established business in Europe. In the absence of regulation, the current recycling rate of 75 percent is as a result of current technological and economic variables and constraints. In Europe there exist a number of national-level initiatives and a proposal for an EU-wide Directive. The objective of the study is to identify the links between these ELV policies and innovation, in support of further policy developments.

6. The Impact of the EU Eco-Audit Regulation (EMAS) on Innovation

See box below for further details on this project. The projects will be finished until September 1999.

References

- Hemmelskamp, J./F. Leone (eds.): The Impact of EU-Regulation on Innovation of European Industry. IPTS-Technical Report, EUR 18111 EN, August 1998.
- Leone, F. (ed.): Implications of Environmental Regulation on Industrial Innovation: The Case of ELV. IPTS-Technical Report, EUR 18688 EN December 1998.
- Thumm, N./M. Weber (eds.): Conceptual and Methodological Approach for Investigating the Impact of Single Market Regulation on Innovation. IPTS-Technical Report, March 1999.

EMAS und Innovation

Ein Hauptziel des EG-Öko-Audit-Systems (EMAS) ist es, den Umweltschutz auf Unternehmensebene stetig zu verbessern. Allerdings kann die Verordnung in der Praxis in sehr verschiedener Weise interpretiert werden. Die Fallstudie im Rahmen des IPTS-Projekts analysiert die Wirkung von EMAS auf Innovationen in den Unternehmen. Unter Federführung des Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology, London, werden die drei Länder Großbritannien, Italien und Deutschland näher untersucht. Während Großbritannien maßgeblich die Einführung der EG-Verordnung vorangetrieben hat und sich Deutschland anfangs dagegen gewehrt hat, hat sich die Akzeptanz in den beiden Ländern gedreht. In Großbritannien ist EMAS von der internationalen Norm ISO 14001 verdrängt worden. In Deutschland setzen sowohl die Verbände als auch die

Behörden auf das EG-System. Demgegenüber wurden in Italien erst Ende 1998 die Registrierstellen eingeführt. Die Vermutung liegt nahe, daß diese länderspezifischen Entwicklungen Einfluß auf die Innovationswirkungen haben. Für Deutschland wird das IÖW die Literatur und Forschungsprojekte auswerten und anhand von Unternehmensinterviews den Einfluß von EMAS auf Prozeß-, Produkt- und organisatorische Innovationen untersuchen. Außerdem sind an dem bis Ende Juni laufenden Projekt noch die London School of Economics und die Fondazione Enrico Mattei, Mailand, beteiligt.

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