

THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL IN TERMS OF IMPACTS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE*

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Abstract

Environment and climate change in the world gained importance at the end of the 20th century and the cooperation of countries in this area gradually increased. Especially the framework protocols signed under the umbrella of the United Nations (UN) made the subject a remarkable area in the international arena. The European Union (EU) became the first actor in the world to take concrete steps in this field with the European Green Deal. The Green Deal has introduced new regulations in a wide range of policy areas. The behaviors adopted by the EU, which maintains its role as a normative power in the international arena, draws paths that include behavioral patterns as implemented. The field of environment and climate change is also an area where the EU is active at the global level, and the effects of the determined rules expected to be seen at the global level. At this point, the trade relations will be a significant channel in the dissemination of the understanding and rules adopted by the EU. The fact that the EU has put provisions on the subject in the preferential trade agreements it has signed is the most substantial indicator of this situation.

Keywords: European Green Deal, Environment, Climate change, Normative power, Trade relations

Uluslararası Ticaret Üzerindeki Etkileri Açısından Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı

Öz

Dünyada çevre ve iklim değişikliği konusu 20. yüzyılın sonlarında önem kazanmış ve ülkelerin bu alandaki işbirlikleri giderek artmıştır. Özellikle Birleşmiş Milletler (BM) çatısı altında imzalanan çerçeve protokoller konuya ilgiyi artırmış ve konuyu uluslararası alanda dikkat çekici bir alan haline getirmiştir. Bu süreçte, Avrupa Birliği (AB) aktif rol oynamış ve Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı ile dünyada bu alanda somut adımlar atan ilk aktör olmuştur. Yeşil Mutabakat, AB için çok geniş bir politika alanında yeni düzenlemeler getirmiş ve konuya ilişkin tüm alanlarda standartların yeniden belirlenmesine neden olacak bir çerçeve düzenleme teşkil etmiştir. Uluslararası alanda bir normatif güç olma rolünü koruyan AB'nin benimsediği davranışlar, uygulandıkça davranış kalıplarını içeren yollar çizmektedir. Çevre ve iklim değişikliği alanı da AB'nin küresel düzeyde etkin olduğu bir alandır ve belirlenen kuralların etkilerinin küresel düzeyde görülmesi beklenmektedir. Bu noktada AB'nin kurduğu ticari ilişkiler, benimsenen anlayış ve kuralların yayılmasında önemli bir kanal olacaktır. AB'nin imzaladığı tercihli ticaret anlaşmalarına konuya ilişkin hükümler koyması bu durumun en önemli göstergesi olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı, Çevre, İklim değişikliği, Normatif güç, Ticari ilişkiler

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Introduction

The issue of environment and climate change found its place on the world agenda at the end of the 20th century and has become an increasingly important issue. Especially recently, trans-border humanitarian issues have become the field of cooperation between countries. One of the leading areas in these fields is the environment and climate change. With the 2016 Paris Agreement, countries have made their promises on the subject a commitment for the first time. The first actor to embody these commitments was the EU. The European Green Deal, which was put forward as part of the goal of “living on a natural and healthy continent” in 2019, has emerged as the EU’s roadmap on the environment. With the Green Deal, the EU has revealed the path to be followed, reflected the issue in its legislation, and embodied its expectations from its trade partners.

The fact that the standards determined by the EU, the leading actor of international trade, will be expected not only in domestic production but also in the products it will import, is a situation that will have an impact on all countries that have trade with the EU. The fact that the EU has close commercial relations with all geographies of the world has also caused the issue to become a topic of the global discussion.

As a normative regulatory power in global relations, the decisions taken and the standards set by the EU have a worldwide impact. In addition to being one of the leading actors in the world in environmental and climate change issues, the EU has recently reinforced its leading role with the Green Deal. As a normative power in the international arena, the EU will be the pioneer of changes in member states and other countries as a result of the arrangements introduced with the Green Deal. The EU acts as an exemplary actor with the behavioral patterns it adopts. In this context, the field of environment is one of the fields where the normative power of the EU can be observed the most.

While the EU uses its normative power, various fields serve the process. The first of these is the membership negotiations, that is, the status of a candidate country. One of the most significant areas other than this is the preferential relations established within the framework of commercial affairs. Customs

unions come first, and it is substantial that it envisages that the partner country adopts the relevant parts of the EU acquis. Besides, every country that has preferential trade relations with the EU is affected by the normative power of the EU. The EU has been increasing its influence in this area by placing provisions in the field of environment in the trade agreements it has signed recently. This effect is expected to increase in the process entered into with the Green Deal.

The article will primarily deal with the normative power of the EU and its prescriptive influence on environmental policy. Secondly it will deal with the occurrence and development of environmental and climate change issues on the international stage. After the general framework has been drawn, the current point of the subject, the importance it has gained and the EU's place in the process will be discussed. Thereafter the European Green Deal will be discussed with its importance in terms of concretizing the steps related to the subject and the EU's guiding position in the world will be mentioned. The study will continue with the trade policy dimension of the subject.

Measures to be taken on the environment and climate change will inevitably be measures that will affect international trade. The standards to be determined by the EU, the world's largest trade bloc, for imports will also determine the production standards for many countries in the world. For this reason, the Green Deal will be a field far beyond being an arrangement made by the EU in its own common policies.

1. European Union as a Normative Power

Today, the EU has established its Single Market and brought it into a healthy working condition, has set its standards as a requirement of free movement and the establishment of the single market, and has become an effective normative power at the global level, completing the economic integration process by using the common market unit. While the behaviors are shaped by the regulations determined in the common policy areas and having a direct effect for the member countries, these behaviors turn into certain behavioral patterns and create various patterns. Thus, the EU becomes a regulatory power at the global level as well as within itself. At this point, there is a broad consensus that the EU is a great regulatory power, and the effect of this regulatory power exceeds the limits of the single market and shows the quality of being a power on a global scale (Young, 2015; 1235).

The "regulatory power" of the EU, which Bradford calls the "Brussels effect", appears in the form of the EU's decisive influence on global behavior, especially after the 1990s. It was the establishment of the Single Market that was decisive in the beginning of the process in the 1990s. In this process, the standards established by the regulations made within the EU have also been

decisive for other countries with which the EU has relations. The leading areas in which standards are shaped have been consumer and environmental policy. The rules that the EU has determined in its own domestic market through standards have had a global impact, enabling the EU to become a global regulatory hegemon (Bradford, 2019:8).

Manners argues that the central component of European normative power is that it differs from pre-existing political forms and that this difference predisposes it to act in a normative way (Manners, 2002:242). The EU cannot be defined as a state, nor is it an international organization in the classical sense. EU institutions are the level at which the rules are determined with the transfer of authority from the member states to the EU level in common policy areas. However, even the fact that the authority has passed to the EU level in some areas does not allow us to say that the EU acts as a state. What is widely agreed upon in the general debate is that the EU is a “normative power”. Ideas created at EU level spread from the EU to other political actors. The EU can spread its own behavior patterns internationally through regulatory power sources. This can be in the form of bargaining, exclusion-based bargaining or rules-based negotiation, depending on the type of relationship established (Young, 2015:1234).

On the other hand, in addition to being built on a normative basis, the EU has also become prone to act normatively in world politics. This situation causes the EU to shape its relations on normative foundations. The EU’s greatest strength is redefining what is “normal”, and the EU can do this at the international level (Manners, 2002:252).

One of the leading areas in which the EU demonstrates its normative power at the global level through behaviors and agreements is the field of environmental policies. At this point, the EU creates a channel through its own regulations and this channel creates the result of adapting the behavior and regulations of other actors to it. When examined in this context, it is seen that the Green Agreement will be an arrangement that will have a worldwide impact. Through the Green Deal, the EU has determined a roadmap for the domestic market to combat environment and climate change, and as a global regulatory actor, it has created an area that will require it to follow the path drawn by other actors.

2. Environment and Climate Change in the International Arena

Concerns about the environment and climate change were not addressed as a threat to humanity until the end of the 20th century. However, this situation has changed recently and the concepts of environment, ecology, and climate

change have been used extensively in political and social sciences (Brauch, 2012: 188). The reasons for the increasing importance of climate change are considered to be related to a wider area such as migration, water problems, conflicts arising from lack of food security, as well as environmental problems. In addition, the element of development lays the groundwork for the growing interest in climate change (Baysal and Karakaş, 2017: 24).

In the 1950s, the concept of “development” was first included in the United Nations (UN) agenda. It was in the 1970s that the environmental issue began to be addressed, and the first UN Environment Summit was held in 1972. The concept of sustainable development was added to these developments with the Brundtland Report. As Brauch points out, the report defined sustainability as “ensuring that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brauch, 2012: 186-189).

Paterson mentions two different approaches regarding the coming of the environmental issue to the stage of international relations. One of them is environmentalists and environmentalists aim to improve environmental problems within the framework of existing structures. The other approach, the green politics, sees existing political, social and economic structures as the source of environmental problems and argues that these structures should be challenged and overcome. While green politics approach the current system and world politics with suspicion, environmentalists aim to find solutions within the existing structures from a liberal institutionalist stance. The green politics approach sees the solutions found within the framework of international institutions since the 1990s as a failure for the environmental movement and argues that the solution is in a more radical transformation (Paterson, 2001: 246). It is possible to say that similar criticisms have been made for the European Green Deal and that there are expectations for a more radical transformation. Sustainable development is criticized on the grounds that it is accepted by the green policy approach to stabilize the use of resources to achieve economic outputs.

In this critiques, while explaining the concepts of development, Brauch emphasized that the definition of development for a long time excluded environmental factors, and the concept of “sustainable development” was first mentioned in the Brundtland Report (Brauch, 2012: 186). Environmental and climate change issues, which took their place in international relations studies in the 1990s, still maintain in the agenda of countries as a transboundary threat in the world today. The EU, which is the leader of the subject, takes concrete steps beyond conceptual discussions and framework agreements and seems determined to drag the world after these steps.

3. Environment and Climate Change in the EU

In the world, while the issue was handled in this manner, the EU's environmental policies have started in coordination with these developments. The EU adopted the first Environmental Action Program (EAP) with ambitious goals in 1973. The most important emphasis of this program is that economic development, welfare, and environmental protection are concepts that are interdependent with each other. With this plan, the basic framework for today's environmental policy has been drawn. However, environmental policy was not a common policy area in that period and it was not considered a regulation regarding the internal market either (Hey:18). In the first period, environmental policy was not considered to be a common policy area, but rather as regulations to be made by member states. It was only later that the importance of common standards in terms of free movement was revealed and environmental policy attracted attention as an issue that should be addressed at the EU level.

In the period from the adoption of the first EAP until today, the issue of nature protection has started to gain importance. Issues such as water and air quality, access to clean drinking water have begun to be taken into consideration. With the 3rd EAP published in 1982, the internal market dimension of the issue was brought to the agenda. This program emphasizes the connection between environmental policy and setting standards in the domestic market. The subject has been evaluated not only in terms of free movement in the domestic market but also in terms of competitiveness in the industry. In 1987, with the 4th Programme, the approach was changed, and the environment started to be considered as a basic topic. Environmental policy is no longer designed as a coordinated policy area as a requirement of trade policy. Since the 1990s, it has been an area that has been handled within the framework of "sustainable development." Although an approach to structural transformation was put forward in the 1990s, the adaptation of the member states to this approach was not very fast, and an approach was adopted to address the issue at the national level (Hey:20).

In the 2000s, in this issue, the EU started to take its decisions at a horizontal level. At this point, it has again taken a leading role. The EU adopted its first sustainable development strategy in 2001, which became a roadmap for the Lisbon Treaty. The EU published eight EAPs to date. The final EAP was adopted in May 2022 and aimed to set forth arrangements to make until 2030. These targets were also determined in line with the UN's Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The Role of the EU in the World and the European Green Deal

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a universal body on the subject, which came into force in 1994. The convention, whose goal is to combat climate change, aims to keep greenhouse gas accumulation at a level that will prevent human-induced effects on the climate system. Although the Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in line with these targets, was signed in 1997, it came into force only in 2005. The Kyoto Protocol requires countries to report regularly, (UNFCCC, 2020a) the first binding agreement on the subject was the Paris Agreement, which entered into force in 2016 (UNFCCC, 2020b). The commitment of the signatory countries to realize the necessary economic and social transformation in order to fulfill their agreement obligations and to announce this by 2020 has been the basis for the EU to take a step toward the Green Deal.

Before the signing of the Paris Agreement, the EU announced that its trade policy on sustainable growth should continue to support green growth and climate change targets in 2010, and emphasized that it aims for a global agreement on climate change (Eurolex, 2010). Thus, it has revealed its global target on the environment and climate change. Being a party to the Paris Agreement, which was signed in line with its objectives, the EU, on the other hand, put the issue on its agenda with the arrangements it made in the Lisbon Treaty. This process has been an important indicator of the EU's determining role in the trends in the world and also that it directs its own regulations in line with the decisions taken at the international level.

In its Global Strategy published in 2016, the EU emphasized the importance of ensuring security, democracy, and prosperity for citizens by stating that the Global Strategy begins within the Union. With the Strategy, the EU also acknowledges that it has adopted the world's leading role in sustainable development and climate change issues (EU Report, 2016: 40). We can say that the EU, keeping the environment and combating climate change as a priority topic on its agenda, has put the issue into a framework with the Green Deal and has made an effort to spread it to all sectors.

The European Commission sees the European Green Deal as part of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. On the other hand, the Deal has emerged as one of the 6 goals set by the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen, based on the desire of future generations to "live on a natural and healthy continent", which is the goal set out in her presidential candidacy strategy (Leyen, 2019).

Setting off with these goals, the Commission took office on 1 December 2019. Its first action was to draw the road map by taking the first step of the

Green Deal with the aim of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050. On 14 January 2020, the Commission announced its investment plan for the financing of its new plan and compensation for the transition period. On 4 March 2020, the Commission proposed the European Climate Law (European Commission, 2020a). Thus, the EU has become the first major economy to present a climate action plan based on the post-2020 global climate change plan.

The EU Commission defines the Green Deal as a strategy that aims to transform the EU into a more just and prosperous society in 2050, where there are no greenhouse gas emissions, and where economic growth is independent of resource use (Eurolex, 2020). While the EU defines the Green Deal; states that climate change and environmental collapse are threats to Europe and the world, and to overcome these problems, Europe needs a new growth strategy that will shape the Union. In order to achieve this, it is aimed for an EU in 2050 where there are no greenhouse gas emissions, where economic growth can be separated from resource use, and where no one and no region is left out. However, while listing these targets, it is also stated that the Green Deal aims to make the EU economy sustainable and it is also explained that climate and environmental problems should be solved for a sustainable EU economy (European Commission, 2020b).

The EU sees the Green Deal as a necessity of a sustainable economy. In this framework, it allocates a special financial resource for its implementation and states that it is necessary to contribute to the Green Deal through all policy areas. Stating that bold and comprehensive steps should be taken for complex and interrelated targets, the EU underlines the necessity of intensive coordination covering all policy areas in order to achieve the best outcomes related to health, quality of life, resilience, and competitiveness with the Green Deal. In order to achieve these coordination and sustainable development goals, priority areas have been determined by emphasizing that the EU is a global leader. At this point, EU's position as a global leader is part of its position as a normative power. The European Green Deal is a significant milestone in spreading the EU's environmental behavior patterns to the globe. The EU will use its trade policy as a means of disseminating its norms to the world through the Green Deal.

5. Debates in the WTO Framework

In the World Trade Organization (WTO) platform, which draws a framework for the rules of international trade, EU member countries are represented by the EU Commission, as a requirement of the trade policy being a common policy area. As a leading actor in international trade, the EU generally draws a member profile that supports international integration within the

framework of the WTO and is compatible with liberal trade rules. In this context, it will be an expected attitude for the EU that the regulations to be brought within the framework of the Green Deal are compatible with the WTO rules.

Lamy, Pons, and Leturcq note that international trade is not the key variable for decarbonizing European trade. While the protection of natural resources and the fight against inequalities are handled as a whole, it is stated that this struggle will be possible not only through trade policy but also through a comprehensive transformation and paradigm shift. In this framework, trade is seen as an element that accompanies this transformation and facilitates and accelerates the transformation (Lamy et.al., 2019).

Within the framework of the WTO, it is stated that there are around 250 multilateral agreements on the environment signed in the world, and about 20 of them have been accepted as having an effect on trade. It is stated that the measures taken within the framework of some of these agreements may violate the principle of “most favored nation” based on the principle of non-discrimination or the rule of equal treatment for similar products. However, it is also known that the measures taken for the protection of natural resources are accepted. Even though negotiations were started with the 2001 Doha Development Negotiations in order to determine the rules of trade and environment relations, no result could be reached (WTO, 2020a).

However, although the EU emphasizes in its documents to follow policies compatible with the WTO and states that it will act in accordance with its obligations in the statements made on the WTO platform, the Green Deal is the subject of discussions within the framework of the WTO. The main reason for the debates is that there is no agreement in the WTO regulating the implementation of the regulations to be made in the field of environment and climate change in a way that does not prevent international trade.

It has been observed that the EU has been questioned by other WTO member countries in various meetings held within the WTO since the day it revealed the Green Deal plan and opened it to the views of the stakeholders. For example, the EU’s regulations were discussed at the Goods Trade Council meeting held on 10-11 June 2020 within the framework of the WTO. The Russian Federation, which also received support from China, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the USA at the meeting, requested assurances from the EU that its practices would comply with WTO rules and would not lead to discrimination. WTO member countries also stated that they expect their practices to be transparent from the EU and requested information on the details of the implementation. On the other hand, the EU stated that the regulations were prepared in accordance with the WTO rules, stated that the process of collecting opinions on the subject continues and gave assurances about transparency (WTO, 2020b).

At the Market Access Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2020, WTO member countries brought the EU Green Deal issue to the agenda again. Countries that think they will be affected by the regulation have requested information on the products and sectors that will be affected by the EU. Some WTO member states referred to the Paris Agreement's "common but differentiated responsibilities principle", stating that the practice should be fair and should recognize carbon pricing systems in other countries. What is striking is that some WTO member countries accused the EU of using this practice for economic purposes, including financial and protectionist practices, rather than environmental protection. At this point, the list of products that will be particularly affected by the application was requested from the EU and it was questioned whether the EU had a plan to apply a tax for domestic products as well. Another remarkable point in the evaluations made regarding the said meeting is that with the implementation of the EU's implementation, the possibility of production shifting to regions with lower sensitivity in this regard has come to the fore (WTO, 2020a).

In another assessment made regarding the meeting held on 16 November 2020, it is stated that the EU has adopted the Green Deal by targeting an inclusive and future-oriented sustainable economy and has made a commitment to take decisions in accordance with WTO rules. In the aforementioned meeting, Turkey¹, Canada, Colombia, India, Norway, Paraguay, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the USA expressed their comments on the Green Deal (WTO, 2020c).

The Green Deal is expected to comply with WTO rules and other international obligations of the EU. However, the fact that the pricing of the goods to be imported to the EU in a way that reflects their carbon content is on the agenda makes the issue controversial. Since there is no framework agreement within the framework of the WTO that determines the international rules on the

¹ Turkey, which is in a customs union relationship with the EU and has the status of a candidate country, is also trying to follow a coordinated process with the European Green Agreement process. In this context, the "Green Deal Action Plan" was prepared by the Ministry of Trade in 2021. With the Action Plan, it is aimed to "contribute to Turkey's transition to a sustainable and resource efficient economy, and Turkey's adaptation to the comprehensive changes envisaged by the European Green Agreement, in a way that will preserve and further the integration provided within the scope of the Turkey-EU Customs Union". Within this framework, 9 main topics, 32 targets, and 81 actions have been determined. The Action Plan aims to obtain a model based on green growth, preventing emission increase, and combating climate change. Thus, Turkey, which is also a party to the Paris Agreement, it is foreseen to take place in the international arena as an actor that is compatible with international developments and has an increased export potential (Ticaret Bakanlığı, 2021).

subject, it remains unclear within which rules the pricing will be applied without creating a trade barrier.

The third report prepared by the Jacques Delors Institute on Greening Europe dealt with the compliance of the Green Deal with the WTO rules and evaluated the conditions under which WTO compliance can be mentioned. As stated in the report, the most important condition for the EU implementation to be compatible with the WTO is that the tax applied on imports has the same effect as the tax on domestic production (Lamy *vd.*, 2019). This condition also constitutes the basis of the “national treatment” rule, which is one of the basic principles of the WTO, and any regulation that does not comply with this rule constitutes a violation of the WTO.

The absence of a multilateral agreement signed in order to minimize the effects of the environmental measures taken by the countries on trade and to eliminate the trade-distorting effect is the most important factor that makes the issue controversial. Lamy, Pons, and Leturcq assume that EU regulation will have a *de facto* trade-restrictive effect. For this reason, it puts forward the claim that member states can accept lower-level measures. In addition, the report they prepared states that the EU should demonstrate that the new system will prevent carbon emissions more than the existing system, through impact analysis (Lamy *vd.*, 2020a). The existence of suspicion that the measures to be taken for a greener world will be used for restrictive purposes causes environmentalist steps taken by countries to be approached with suspicion.

6. Evaluation in Terms of EU's Trade Agreements

One of the most systematic ways for the EU to export its standards is through bilateral economic and political agreements. The most obvious examples of these agreements are accession agreements and partnership agreements, though preferential trade agreements (PTAs) can play this role. The general opinion on this issue is that the EU's enlargement policy is the most effective tool for the EU to export its own behavior patterns (Bradford, 2019: 68).

The EU, which has signed trade agreements with many countries from various regions of the world, considers these agreements as a means of creating an area of influence as well as using these agreements for preferential trade. As a reflection of this, it adds provisions regarding the environment and climate change, which it sees as a security problem, to the comprehensive and new-generation free trade agreements it has signed recently. In the said agreements, there are provisions on compliance with the Paris Agreement commitments under the title of “Multilateral Environmental Agreements” (European Commission, 2020c).

In the report it published in 2006, the EU stated that it sees trade policy as a means of achieving its external goals, especially development and neighborly relations. Of even date, we see that the effects of economic growth and trade on the environment started to be discussed. The report emphasized the importance of trade policy and the need for comprehensive free trade agreements. However, the priority of including issues such as climate change, environment, or sustainable resource use in agreements is not seen in this period (European Commission, 2006).

In the recent period, the EU prioritizes its bilateral and regional relations alongside a multilateral platform such as the WTO. In 2006, the EU saw the WTO as the most effective way to steer and expand trade and the cornerstone of multilateral trade, not only evaluating the Doha Development Round as a top priority, but also stating that free trade agreements can be defined as a threat to the multilateral trading system (European Commission, 2006). By 2010, we see that the EU's emphasis on bilateral and regional trade agreements has increased and it has begun to highlight the new generation, deepened, and expanded trade agreements.

Lombaerde and Kingah also state that, together with the Lisbon Treaty, the EU used its trade policy to expand its sphere of influence and create normative results. They also emphasize that this situation was also stated in the Trade, Growth and World Relations Statement published in 2010 (Lombaerde and Kingah, 2014). The Statement in question aims to set forth the 2020 European Strategy and has adopted the principle of rational, inclusive and sustainable development. With the Declaration, in which economic targets and targets related to foreign trade are determined, it is also stated that the EU should support the greening of the world economy and the introduction of a decent working style through the trade channel. It is also emphasized that the EU uses the channels of global multilateral relations and bilateral preferential trade agreements to achieve these goals. In addition, it has been accepted that the Economic Partnership Agreements signed with African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries serve the purpose of integrating developing countries into the global economy through sustainable development. Moreover, it is stated in the declaration that removing barriers to trade in environmentally friendly products and services will support of trade policy on climate change and that support and incentives should continue through trade policy in the fields of energy, resource efficiency and biodiversity protection. At this point, it was underlined that the sustainable development titles should be included in trade agreements and cooperation with civil society and their implementation would continue (Eurolex, 2010).

The normative power of the EU in the international arena is directly related to the level of representation in the relevant policy area. The normative power remains weak in areas where it is represented by member states. In areas where

it is represented by EU institutions, its sphere of influence is wider (Bradford, 2019: 70). Trade policy is also an area where the EU effectively uses its normative power since it is an area where the EU is represented by the EU Commission in the international arena.

Therefore, it is an accepted situation that the EU uses its trade policy tools as a way of creating a sphere of influence in the world. On the other hand, the issue of environment and climate change is an area in which the EU leads the world. It is expected that the EU will use the environmental and climate change commitments included in its new generation FTAs as a way of creating a sphere of influence in the world. While accepting the Green Deal in order to fulfill the conditions of the Paris Agreement, the EU claimed to have an impact. The EU's step has drawn more attention in the world to the environmental issue and the fact that this area is a security issue. At this point, the debated area is the possibility that the practices will have negative effects on the course of trade. What makes the issue debatable is the absence of a framework agreement regulating the overlapping areas of the environment and trade policy.

Conclusion

The interest in the environmental issue has increased over time and recently, environment and climate change matter has become one of the main issues that have found a place in the international arena. With this approach, one of the areas included in the cross-border issues has been the environment and climate change, which directly affects people. The EU was the first actor to transfer the environmental issue, which has become an important agenda item in the international arena, into its legislation in accordance with the requirements of cooperation agreements. The EU has not only addressed the issue as its own internal matter but has also stated that it has expectations from its trade partners in terms of harmonization.

Therefore, we can say that it is important for the EU that the initiative it started to solve environmental and climate change problems has a global impact. The Green Deal, which was prepared at the end of 2019 and has an important place on the agenda today, has also been the basis of the EU's claim to be the leader of the issue in the world (European Commission, 2019).

In this process, priorities in the world and EU countries have changed for a while with the pandemic and health expenditures have become a priority. Then came the Russian occupation of Ukraine and the expectation that the priority issues would change in the process. However, the dependence on Russian energy has revealed the importance of green transformation for the EU. At this point, the EU has sought diversification for supply in coal, oil, and natural gas as a priority target. The permanent goal of the EU has been to eliminate the dependence on

Russian fossil fuels by turning to clean energy sources (European Commission, 2023). The EU has faced the reality that it has to produce alternatives to the energy resources it imports from Russia, which is considered an “unreliable” partner. After the occupation, primarily, the priority of the EU has been to diversify energy suppliers with “reliable” partners and to restrict consumption. However, the process has shown that these measures are not permanent solutions. The EU has revealed its targets and roadmap in this regard with its strategy called “REPower the EU” adopted in May 2022. The main objective of the strategy is to eliminate the EU’s dependence on Russia. In this framework, the EU envisages allocating an additional 210 billion Euros until 2027 (European Commission, 2022). The EU, as an actor with the capacity to change the approachment of the world, is also an actor that adapts to changing conditions in the world and reacts quickly. It has been possible to observe this situation in many areas after Ukraine’s invasion of Russia. However, one of the most important features that give the EU its uniqueness is its normative power. Member states accept the regulatory power of the Union by transferring their sovereign powers to the EU level in many areas through delegation of authority. What is surprising is that the EU’s regulatory influence also has an impact on other actors besides the member states.

As a normative power, the EU develops various behavioral patterns in many areas and ensures that different actors act in accordance with these patterns with various tools over time. Environmental policy is one of the areas in which the EU has normative power. The EU is affected by the developments in the world in this field, but more importantly, it plays a leading role to the extent that it affects developments all over the world. While realizing this effect, the EU has various tools. Main of these instruments is the candidate country status. Also, applying the principle of conditionality in the distribution of funds, the EU also exerts its influence through this channel. Another effective tool is the trade policy which is discussed in the study. The EU uses its power in the field of international trade as an element in spreading the norms it has adopted in its environmental policy to its partners.

EU, which has developed special trade relations with many countries in the world through free trade agreements and preferential trade agreements it has signed, has an understanding beyond just seeing trade agreements as a basis for preferential trade. The EU sees trade agreements as a means of global adoption of the rules it has taken on (European Commission, 2021). For this reason, the importance given to putting the relevant provisions in the agreements and their implementation is emphasized in the relevant texts. Therefore, the EU reflects its new approach, which it has put forward with the Green Deal and which is based on the Paris Agreement, through bilateral and regional agreements.

As a regulatory actor in the world, the EU has played a crucial role in bringing the issues of environment and climate change into the world agenda. As the first actor to take concrete steps for implementing the Paris Agreement, the EU has made significant contributions to forming normative patterns in the world to develop norms in line with environmental and climate change priorities.

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