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and  
economic  
diplomacy**

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GUEST EDITORIAL

# *Korea-EU Carbon Neutrality Policies and Economic Diplomacy*

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We are delighted to present this issue focusing on the cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Korea in the realms of carbon neutralization and economic diplomacy. In a world where climate change-induced disasters are unfolding across the globe and present unprecedented challenges, the imperative for global collaboration is more urgent than ever before.

The EU and Korea have established close collaboration across numerous domains, including sustainable development and economic growth but also cutting-edge technology projects. Both regions share fundamental values centered on freedom and open markets. Moreover, at national level they are joining forces to realize the shared objective of carbon neutralization through a range of strategic initiatives. This concerted effort involves the exchange of knowledge, the alignment of policies, and joint endeavors aimed at expediting the shift toward carbon-neutral economies.

In particular, the interplay of economic diplomacy between both regions significantly influences resulting carbon neutralization policies. Not only are traditional concepts of pursuing economic growth at the expense of environmental protection facing increasing scrutiny, necessitating political and diplomatic dialogues. But given their robust trade ties, both regions are also intricately linked, underscoring the need for cooperative discussions and exchange of ideas. Through their bilateral and multilateral interactions, the EU and Korea have effectively demonstrated how diplomatic endeavors can propel economic expansion while, at the same time, promoting environmental conservation.

This issue, therefore, delves deep into the legislation efforts. Various new legislation on decarbonization in Korea, China, and the EU are being explored in order to understand the policy direction that the respective governments are taking but also the strategies, policies, and collaborative efforts that have been forged to achieve this shared goal. Legal challenges in those efforts are also investigated. The articles shed light on the impressive strides made by the EU and Korea in their quest for carbon neutralization.

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The contributions to this issue also highlight the potential for mutual learning between the EU and Korea. With distinct historical, cultural, and geographical contexts, these two regions offer unique perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with carbon neutralization. By analyzing the strategies employed by each side, stakeholders can gain valuable insights into best practices, potential pitfalls, and effective policy implementation.

In conclusion, this issue encapsulates the resolute spirit that defines the EU-Korea collaboration in carbon neutralization through economic diplomacy. As we assimilate the insights presented within these pages, let us draw inspiration from the remarkable progress achieved by the EU and Korea, and let it embolden us to embark on our own collaborative initiatives, fostering a world that is both sustainable and prosperous.

Our heartfelt appreciation extends to the contributors, researchers, whose unwavering dedication has brought this issue to publication. We are particularly grateful for funding provided by the *Korea Foundation* which has made this collaboration possible. It would be our hope that this issue may act as a catalyst, igniting informed discussions and propelling transformative actions in the continued voyage toward achieving carbon neutrality.

Sunkung Choi

Stefan Weishaar



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