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## PUBLICATION

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# How Crisis-resistant and Competitive are Europe's Eco-Industries?



[1]

Even in a difficult economic climate Eco-industries have been a source of both continuous growth and of stability

This short study that Ecologic Institute produced for the Greens in the European Parliament, examines the competitiveness of European Eco-Industries. The key finding is that Eco-Industries have been a source of economic growth, particularly at times when other parts of the economy contracted. The short study is available for download.

### **Numerous patent applications and highly innovative**

And unlike other sectors, European companies were able to defend their position in the growing global market for low-carbon environmental goods and services. One reason for this is that eco-industries are also a highly innovative part of the economy, with patent applications for environmental technologies growing at a much higher rate than overall patent applications.


### **Eco-industries - strongest economy sector**

One main conclusion of the study is that eco-industries have outperformed the broader economy - almost everywhere and almost all of the time. European eco-industries in particular have been a source of both continuous growth and of stability: they have continued to grow in a difficult economic climate, when other sectors of the economy contracted massively. Also, European manufacturers of low-carbon environmental goods and services were able to defend their strong market position in a growing global market, in contrast to many other sectors where European manufacturers have been losing ground.

### **European technological leadership (?)**

One reason for this is that eco-industries are a highly innovative part of the economy: patent applications in this sector have increased markedly (particularly after 2005), far outstripping overall patenting activity. Patent applications are a difficult metric, particularly for international comparison. But acknowledging this caveat, if one interprets patent application as an indication of technological leadership, a mixed picture emerges: while the EU as a whole accounts for a majority of existing patents in most environmental technologies, the growth rates of new patent applications are higher for China - and partly the US - in a number of technology domains. Europe, therefore, should be careful not to become complacent in its technological leadership.

### **Attachments**

-  Short study: How Crisis-resistant and Competitive are Europe's Eco-Industries? [pdf, 885.9 kB, English]

### **Main Link**

Short study: How Crisis-resistant and Competitive are Europe's Eco-Industries? [pdf, 885.9 kB, English]

### Ecologic Related Articles

- Integrating Resource Efficiency, Greening of Industrial Production and Green Industries
- Competitiveness of Europe's Eco-Industries
- Resource Indicators for Sustainable Industries and Sustainable Industrial Development (RISI)
- Unlocking Innovation to Facilitate a Low-Carbon Industry in Europe - Berlin Seminar on Energy and Climate Policy (BSEC)
- The Sevilla Process: A Driver for Environmental Performance in Industry
- Industries of the Future - Symposium

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## **Links**

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<https://www.ecologic.eu/sites/files/presentation/2014/cover-how-crisis-resistant-and-competitive-are-europes-eco-industries.jpg>