

Abstract

The objective of the paper is the analysis of the constraints that the efficient management of the environment and of natural resources represents for the industrial sector. To this aim, in the first part we present the main contributions to this field derived from economic theory, in general, and from environmental and resource economics, in particular. In the second part we present a quick review of the works that show that environment policies do not necessarily have negative effects on the firms in competitive terms. Finally, the two main policies that at present have important effects on firms, the IPPC directive and the Kyoto Protocol, are analyzed taking into account its implications. The main conclusion of the analysis is that the conservation of the environment does not necessarily constitute a constraint for the entrepreneurial sector; it may and should constitute also a good opportunity to improve its degree of competitiveness.