

# Revisiting the Porter Hypothesis: an empirical analysis of green innovation for the Netherlands

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## Explanation of symbols

.	data not available
*	provisional figure
**	revised provisional figure (but not definite)
x	publication prohibited (confidential figure)
–	nil
–	(between two figures) inclusive
0 (0.0)	less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	not applicable
2012–2013	2012 to 2013 inclusive
2012/2013	average for 2012 up to and including 2013
2012/'13	crop year, financial year, school year etc. beginning in 2012 and ending in 2013
2010/'11– 2012/'13	crop year, financial year, etc. 2010/'11 to 2012/'13 inclusive

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

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REVISITING THE PORTER HYPOTHESIS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF GREEN  
INNOVATION FOR THE NETHERLANDS

George van Leeuwen<sup>1</sup> and Pierre Mohnen<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract**

*Almost all empirical research that has attempted to assess the validity of the Porter Hypothesis has started from reduced-form models, e.g. by using single-equation models for estimating the contribution of environmental regulation (ER) to productivity. This paper addresses the Porter Hypothesis within a structural approach that allows us to test what is known in the literature as the “weak” and the “strong” version of the Porter hypothesis. Our “Green Innovation” model includes three types of eco investments and non-eco R&D to explain differences in the incidence of innovation. Besides product and process innovations we recognize eco-innovation as a separate type of innovation output. We explicitly model the potential synergies of introducing the three types of innovations simultaneously and their synergy in affecting total factor productivity (TFP) performance. Using a comprehensive panel of firm-level data built from four surveys we aim to estimate the relative importance of energy price incentives as a market based type of ER and the direct effect of environmental regulation on eco investment and firms’ decisions regarding the introduction of several types of innovations. The results of our analysis show a strong corroboration of the weak version of the Porter hypothesis but not of the strong version of the PH, in this case on TFP performance.*

*Keywords: Porter Hypothesis, green innovation, environmental regulation, innovation complementarities, productivity.*

*JEL codes: H23, L5, O32, O38, Q55*

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between technological change and environmental policy has received a lot of attention from scholars and policymakers during the last decades. This is partly because the environmental consequences of social and business activity are affected by the rate and direction of technological change, and also because environmental policy interventions may create new constraints and incentives that may shape the path of future technological development (Jaffe et al., 2003).

Environmental technological progress is a very broad phenomenon and every description of it cannot be more than very incomplete. Some examples concern 1) technologies that reduce pollution at the end-of-pipe, such as scrubbers for use on industrial smokestacks or catalytic converters for automobiles 2) technologies that increase user value for consumer products (e.g. medicines) after introducing new production methods, which, at the same time, decrease the environmental burden of their production by using materials that are less harmful for the environment and 3) implementation of technologies that are targeted to changes in production processes to improve energy efficiency.

Policy responses to environmental problems often start from the assertion that the link between overall technological change and (e.g.) climate based environmental policies is merely macro oriented. However, for understanding the interaction between environmental policy and technology it also makes sense to go down to the micro level. After all, environmental regulation and public funding of R&D are the first impetus to have more green technologies developed by individual firms. Similar to other types of innovations, the benefits of environmental technological innovations may accrue to society at large rather than to the adopter of these new technologies alone. This market failure related to innovation in general is pivotal to the numerous discussions surrounding the so-called Porter-Hypothesis (PH).

It is often argued (see e.g. Wagner, 2003) that one cannot find a 10-Dollar bill on the ground, because if it was there, somebody else would already have picked it up. This metaphor neglects three things 1) that market forces alone do not provide enough incentives for firms to be engaged in green innovation and 2) that green innovation is not very different compared to innovation in general and 3) that policy responses such as environmental regulation have a role to play to bring economic opportunity in line with the environment (see e.g. Jaffe et al., 2002, Desrochers, 2008 and Cerin, 2012). The central issue is the question whether regulation drives innovation. The PH asserts that polluting firms can benefit from environmental policies, arguing that well designed and stringent environmental regulation (ER) can stimulate innovations, which in turn increase the productivity of firms or the product value for end users (Porter, 1991; Porter and van der Linde, 1995). The message of this hypothesis is that there seems to be no trade-off between economic growth and environmental protection but a win-win situation instead. Environmental regulation would benefit both society and regulated firms by triggering dynamic efficiency of firms and these benefits may partially or fully offset the costs of complying with environmental restrictions.

The empirical evidence available supporting the Porter Hypothesis seems to be rather scanty and in most cases the PH is rejected by the data (see e.g. Wagner (2003), Popp et al. (2010), Ambec and Barla (2006), and Ambec et al. (2011) for an extended review). For the Netherlands the evidence seems to be very scarce. This paper tries to shed a new light on the PH by using a rich unbalanced panel constructed by matching Dutch firm level data from four surveys and by modeling the complementarities of eco-innovation with traditional modes of innovation.

As argued by Kriegel and Ziesemer (2009), the main problem regarding the empirical testing of the PH, in essence, boils down to having a better understanding of the (eco) innovation adoption decisions of firms. This assertion asks for a structural modeling approach in investigating the contribution of energy prices and environmental regulations on green investment and of green investment on innovation and productive efficiency. We will embark on this task by adopting a Green CDM (Crépon-Duguet-Mairesse) type of model for the Netherlands, similar to the Lanoie, Laurent-Lucchetti, Johnstone and Ambec (2011) model, that allows testing what Jaffe and Palmer (1997) have called the “weak” version and the “strong” version of the PH, referring to the effect of environmental regulations on respectively environmental innovations and economic performance, in this case total factor productivity (*TFP*). Contrary to Cainelli et al. (2010) our model includes several types of eco investments and regards eco innovation as a special mode of innovation output. Eco, environmental and green innovation will be interchangeably used, indicating each time an innovation with a lower environmental impact. Likewise eco, environmental and green investment all point to investments aimed at reducing the environmental burden of production (for more discussion on the definition, see Kemp (2011)).

Our starting point of investigation of the PH is the impact of energy prices on different types of eco investment. The fact that carbon taxes are a substantial part of gross energy prices makes them a potentially useful instrument for environmental policy aimed at improving the energy related static as well as dynamic efficiency of firms. In particular, this may be the case if such price incentives invoke environmental investment combined with the renewing of the production process (so-called process integrated eco investment).

Our empirical model starts from the estimation of four innovation input equations: two for R&D (eco R&D and other R&D) and two for other types of eco-investments, end-of-pipe and process integrated respectively. Subsequently, we use the predictions from these equations for modeling the incidence of different types of innovation. At the end, we will estimate a labor productivity equation and test for complementarity or substitutability of different innovation strategies in affecting the total factor productivity (*TFP*).

A novelty of our paper is that we try to assess the existence of complementarities (as defined in Milgrom and Roberts, 1990 and 1995) between product, process and eco innovations. We distinguish complementarities in the incidence of innovation and in their effects on productivity performance. To estimate the structural model we have implemented a procedure proposed by Lewbel (2007) for solving the

coherency and incompleteness problem when estimating a system of equations with dummy endogenous variables.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In section 2 an overview of the literature is given. Section 3 discusses the model used in the empirical application and elaborates on the econometric issues of this research. Thereafter the data are presented in section 4, followed by a discussion of the main results in section 5. Section 6 concludes.

## **2. Literature review**

One can hardly find any branch of economics that has been concerned with the PH as much as environmental economics. There is a vast body of literature devoted to appraise or peruse the seminal contributions of Porter (1991) and Porter and van der Linde (1995). Originating primarily from empirical regularities found in the analysis of cross-country differences in the stringency of environmental regulation and economic performance, the hypothesis has triggered a lot of research both theoretical and empirical in nature. The Porter hypothesis has been criticized, for being merely based on anecdotal stories (which in some cases seem to be even erroneous) and for the lack of a sound theoretical basis (see e.g. Palmer et al., 1995, and Cerin, 2006).

More recent research attempts to fill the gap between empirics and theory to provide a theoretical underpinning of the PH. Mohr (2002) argues that it is a feasible outcome if one allows for the possibility of endogenous technical change. More recent theoretical contributions that link the environment to endogenous growth are given in Acemoglu et al. (2012) and Gans (2012). Ambec and Barla (2002) raise the question whether regulation is indeed needed for firms to adopt profit-increasing innovations, and pointing amongst others to the 10-Dollar metaphor mentioned above. This last criticism is targeted to the primitive of the PH stating that firms systematically ignore opportunities for profit increasing innovations and that environmental regulation can motivate firms to capture “low hanging fruit” offered by environmental challenges to their businesses. Another source is the literature of behavior economics. This literature offers several explanations for underinvesting in environmental innovation (see e.g. Ambec and Barla, 2006, for examples).

Similarly, several theoretical attempts have tried to frame regulation in models often used for analyzing the interaction between competition and innovation. A recent example is given in Constantatos and Hermann (2011). The example concerns the introduction of organic products in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing. By avoiding the use of environmentally damaging fertilizers there is less environmental burden as well as more user value created because organic drugs are healthier. In this case a win-win situation between regulation and innovation is not self-evident because there is much scope for conjectural variation, especially if such innovations take place in markets that are characterized by fierce competition and because the envi-

ronmental quality of the new product will be highly correlated with other product attributes. The latter argument explains why inertia at the consumer side of the market may enlarge the risk of investing due to potential first-mover disadvantages.

The example illustrates that there are many similarities with the traditional view on the relationship between innovation and competition as a source of underinvesting in innovation. Moreover, the example also shows that the scope for environmental policies is very broad in principle, but that it is questionable how environmental regulation can offer a solution to the problems involved. This brings us to another strand of research that focuses on the second primitive of the PH, i.e. the assertion that environmental regulations should be well designed and stringent enough to be successful also from an economic point of view.

An assessment of the instruments of environmental regulation and a judgment of their effectiveness can be found in Wagner (2003). The myriad of environmental instruments can be better understood when using a classification or typology. A first delineation is between command and control type regulation and market based regulation. The instruments that set emission limits and standards fall into the first class and are often labeled “end of pipe” regulations. Environmental taxes and charges and tradable emission permits or certificates are examples of the second class of instruments.

Environmental effectiveness can be defined as the ability to achieve a predefined environmental target. The general view is that this definition is more appropriate for the first class of instruments. By contrast, the second class of instruments has a higher economic profile, because they are aimed at triggering static and dynamic efficiency and internalizing environmental externalities in and between markets. In particular these instruments play a role in the empirical testing of the premises of the PH.

Looking at the empirical evidence provided in the literature it can be concluded that the picture is rather mixed. The number of papers and articles that have put the PH to the empirical testing is overwhelming but they do not lead to a general consensus. Much of this has to do with the different research strategies and the availability of data. Compared to empirical evidence at the macro or industry level, the number of papers that use firm level data is rather scarce. Besides that, research is targeted at different measures of performance.

Cutting through different reviews of empirical work it can be concluded that much research is aimed at investigating the impact of environmental regulation on productivity or productive efficiency in a reduced form estimation approach. In many cases this type of research leads to the conclusion that environmental regulation has a negative impact on productivity. This conclusion can be easily understood, because regulation forces firms to invest in the environment and this increases production costs of firms to comply with the environmental restrictions.

There are several issues at stake here. If these investments do not lead to renewing of production processes then there is no reason for expecting substantial

gains in resource efficiency. A second issue is related to measurement. “End-of-pipe” investments may reduce pollution but this reduction is not accounted for in output. The same capital and other inputs produce two types of output: bad and good output and it is hardly possible to value the contribution of (reducing) bad output. This raises serious problems when investigating the relation between environmental regulation and (productive) efficiency.<sup>1</sup> An interesting solution to circumvent this problem is presented in Domazlicky and Weber (2004). They use volume data on toxic releases and traditional output measures such as real value added in a non-parametric analysis to identify technical change from efficiency change. However, these results also lead to the conclusion that the impact of regulation on total factor productivity (*TFP*) is negative.<sup>2</sup>

More interesting for the PH is the research that looks into the impact of environmental regulation on innovation. This type of research seems to be a necessary if not sufficient condition for the PH. Again the evidence is scanty and weak in general. Notable examples of this type of research can be found in several papers and articles of ZEW. In most cases the research uses the data collected on innovation and regulation in the Mannheim Innovation Panel that is constructed from several editions of the German Community Innovation Survey (CIS). The focus of research varies between regulation driven innovation alone (Rennings and Rexhäuser, 2010) to the impact of regulation driven innovation on competitiveness (Rennings and Rammer, 2010), employment dynamics (Horbach and Rennings, 2012) or profitability (Rexhäuser and Rammer, 2011). Support for the PH is provided by concluding that environmental regulation does not harm competitiveness (Rennings and Rammer, 2010) and that the contribution of regulation induced innovation to profitability is larger than the contribution of other (more) voluntary innovations (Rexhäuser and Rammer, 2011).

Ideally, a thorough empirical testing of the PH requires data on which types of regulations trigger which innovations at the firm level. The most recent edition of CIS contains new questions on environmental innovation. However, for the Netherlands, this new module cannot be used to identify the role of different instruments of environmental regulation properly. The only variable available on regulation in this research concerns firm responses to environmental regulation in general, either existing or anticipated regulations. By contrast, the German CIS allows a distinction between types of environmental regulations. After matching the firm responses with external data on the age of regulations, Rennings and Rexhäuser (2010) also investigated the long-term impact of different types of regulation on the adoption of environmental innovation. To keep things tractable, they made a distinction between three types of environmental regulation (ER): a) “end-of-pipe” regulation, b) circular flow economy regulation and c) climate change based regulations. An important conclusion is that the long-term impact of regulation only triggers innovation that is

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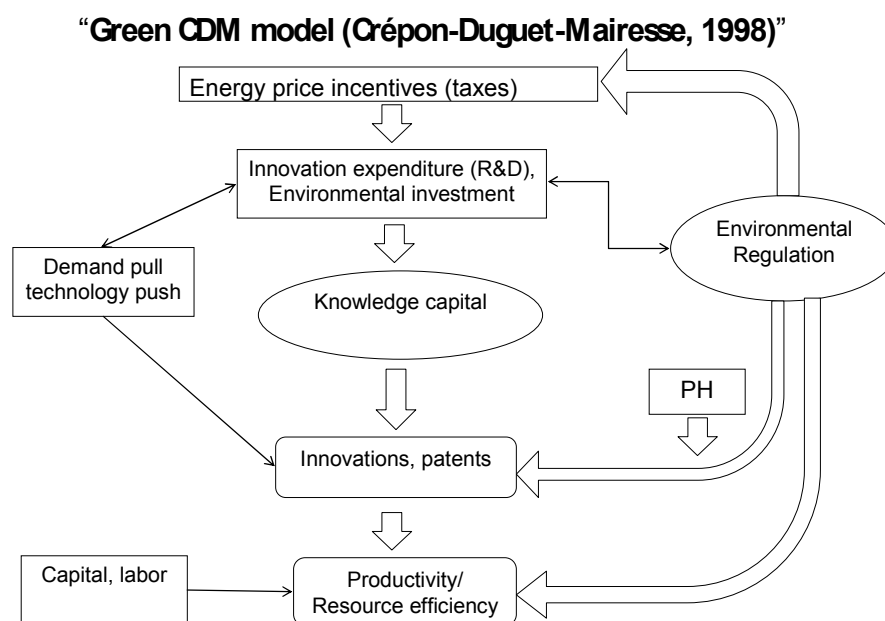
<sup>1</sup> This problem is well recognized by statisticians and environmental accounting is an important avenue for National Accounts. See Muller et al. (2011) for a recent contribution to this problem.

<sup>2</sup> The method used is the “directional output distance approach” developed by Chung et al. (2007) for constructing the Malmquist-Luneberger index to decompose (changes in) TFP.



strongly related to “control type” ER. By contrast, the support for PH in terms of increasing static or dynamic efficiency is limited. As convincingly argued by Rennings and Rexhäuser (2010), the contribution of control type ER to dynamic efficiency is expected to be limited, as, once installed, “end-of pipe” environmental investment cannot contribute to the innovation process anymore.

One can add to this that other types of ecological investment may yield higher returns to investment. Combining eco investment with renewing of production processes seems a better example of innovation related eco investment. We take this consideration into account in the next section.



### 3. A Green CDM type empirical model

The empirical model used in this paper is a modified version of the so-called “CDM model”. Today, this model is the work horse for research on innovation when using firm-level data (see Crépon, Duguet and Mairesse, 1998). A graphical presentation of our model is given in Figure 1.<sup>3</sup> The upper part of the figure points to the investment decision stage. In the traditional CDM model this concerns the decision on how much to invest in R&D. In this paper we face another investment decision problem, i.e. namely whether or not to invest in order to reduce the environmental burden of the firm’s operations. In section 3.1 we will discuss the specification of the input stage of the model. The second block of the model describes innovation a separate production process with R&D and eco-investment as an input and knowl-

<sup>3</sup> The figure is adapted version of the one presented in Crépon, Duguet and Mairesse (1998).

edge creation, in the form of new products, new production processes and eco-innovation as the outcomes.

The third block examines the link between innovation outputs and productivity as a measure of economic performance. We shall now describe each block in detail.

### 3.1 The investment decisions

We consider four investment decisions: three decisions concerning types of eco investment and one concerning investment in non-eco R&D. Eco investment ( $X_1$ ) is comprised of 1) eco R&D, 2) eco investment in end-of-pipe facilities, and 3) eco investment that is “process integrated”, i.e. eco investment combined with the renewal of the main production processes of the firm. The investment inputs into non-eco innovation ( $X_2$ ) are defined as gross expenditures in R&D less expenditures in eco R&D. Irrespective of which type of investment is concerned, we assume that firms first decide whether to invest or not and then choose the investment intensity.

Firms will invest in each of these types of investment if the latent value of investing exceeds some threshold value  $\bar{c}$ . For example, for  $X_1$ , this can be expressed as follows:

$$DX_{i1} = 1 \text{ if } DX_{i1}^* = Z'_{i1}\alpha_1 + \varepsilon_{i1} > \bar{c}_1, \text{ and} \quad (1)$$

$$DX_{i1} = 0 \text{ if } DX_{i1}^* = Z'_{i1}\alpha_1 + \varepsilon_{i1} \leq \bar{c}_1.$$

The vector  $Z_{i1}$  in (1) collects the variables that are assumed to determine the selection of firms that invest in  $X_1$ , i.e. the occurrence of having performed and reported eco investment of the type considered. In a similar way we can model the decision concerning non-eco R&D investment ( $DX_{i2}$ ).

Model (1) is extended with a set of equations that models the level of investment intensity for each of the three types of eco investment and for non-eco R&D. For example, for some type of eco investment, this yields

$$X_{i1} = X_{i1}^* = X'_{i1}\beta_1 + e_{i1} \quad \text{if } DX_{i1} = 1, \text{ and} \quad (2)$$

$$X_{i1} = 0 \quad \text{if } DX_{i1} = 0.$$

Models (1) and (2) are applied to each of the four types of innovation investment. Assuming a bivariate normal distribution for  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $e_1$  (in case of a specific type of eco investment), and similarly for  $\varepsilon_2$  and  $e_2$  (in case of non-eco R&D investment), the system (1) - (2) is a Tobit II type selection model (Amemiya,1984).

## 3.2 Implementing the investment models

Although we are dealing in each case with a general investment problem, one can imagine that the four types of investment are rather distinct. The traditional view is that expenditures on non-eco R&D have a higher economic profile, and that such expenditures are quite different from eco investment (including eco R&D) when judged from the point of the strategies of the firms. This is in particular the case if we compare eco investment performed to comply with “control type” environmental regulation with R&D that is aimed at developing new goods.

Not at least because of the difficulty of evaluating the output of “bad goods” or of “process integrated” eco investment, which, by definition aims at reducing bad output and increasing resource efficiency, it is impossible to use standard capital and investment theory to derive formal investment models. At least, we consider such an exercise beyond the scope of this research. To a lesser extent the same problems also carries over to “process integrated” eco investment, which, by definition aims at reducing bad output while increasing resource efficiency. Likewise for investment in non-eco R&D, we miss the necessary price data to estimate an investment equation that would be embedded in capital and investment theory. For both eco-and non-eco investments we have information on subsidies received that can be used for explaining differences in investment intensities between firms. The R&D subsidies are not the only incentives for eco R&D (and investment). Internalizing environmental externalities can also be achieved via energy prices. As mentioned before, energy prices are an interesting instrument of market based ER. A nice feature of the data is that we can construct firm-specific marginal energy prices to explain differences in each type of eco investment. This brings us to the specification of the vectors  $Z$  and  $X$  in (1) and (2) for non-eco R&D innovation investment and for the three types of eco investment respectively.

### 3.2.1 Non-eco R&D investment

For the selectivity and intensity equations non-eco R&D investment ( $Z_2$  and  $X_2$  respectively), we introduce the same explanatory variables as in Polder et al. (2010).  $Z_2$  includes the begin-of-period size ( $Z_{21}$ ), a dummy indicating whether the firm belongs to an enterprise group ( $Z_{22}$ ), a dummy to indicate whether firms are involved in innovation cooperation ( $Z_{23}$ ) or are dependent on foreign markets ( $Z_{24}$ ), a dummy variable that indicates whether firms responded to ER or not ( $Z_{25}$ ), a set of industry dummies ( $Z_{26}$ ) and a two dummy variables indicating the importance of “demand-pull” and “cost-push” objectives for innovation ( $Z_{27}$  -  $Z_{28}$ ):

$$Z_2 = \{Z_{21}, Z_{22}, Z_{23}, Z_{24}, Z_{25}, Z_{26}, Z_{27}, Z_{28}\}.$$

The probability to invest in non-environmental R&D is supposed to increase with size and to be higher for firms that belong to a group, that cooperate for innovation, that operate on foreign markets, that are subject to environmental regulations and that are driven by cost-push or demand-pull considerations. Those same variables

are assumed to affect the intensity of non-eco R&D, i.e. are collected in the vector  $X_2$ , with the exception of the innovation cooperation dummy ( $Z_{23}$ ) and with the addition of subsidies received from local authorities, government bodies and the EU ( $X_{21}$  -  $X_{23}$ ) and a set of time dummies ( $X_{24}$ ). Hence we have

$$X_2 = \{Z_{21}, Z_{22}, Z_{24}, Z_{25}, Z_{26}, X_{21}, X_{22}, X_{23}, X_{24}\}.$$

### 3.2.2 Eco investment

In principle, some of the variables used for modeling other innovation investment could also be used for the eco investment equations ( $Z_1$  and  $X_1$ ). However, this would lead to a considerable loss of data at the outset because of the small overlap of the data of the four surveys that would have to be matched (see section 5). To minimize the lack of data coverage between surveys, we focus on the variables that are collected in two surveys: the Production Statistics survey (PS) and the survey on environmental costs of firms (ECF). The use of ECF is imperative here. It is this survey that collects data on the three types of eco investment. Combining these with data on energy costs and volumes collected in the PS-survey allows us to construct (gross) marginal energy prices ( $pe_{gt}$ ) for the firms for which data on eco investment are available.<sup>4</sup> In this way, and after using a measure for the prices of eco investment collected in the ECF survey ( $pi_t$ ), we obtain a measure for the relative price of eco investment (relative to energy prices)

$$X_{11} = \ln(pi_t) - \ln(pe_{gt}).$$

Furthermore, and to determine the importance of ER for eco investment, we include an environmental regulation (ER) dummy ( $X_{12}$ ). The model is “completed” further by using the logarithm of beginning-of-period energy cost shares ( $X_{13}$ ), the logarithm of beginning-of-period size ( $X_{14}$ ), a dummy variable that indicates whether firms received eco subsidies ( $X_{15}$ ), and a set of industry and year dummies ( $X_{16}$ ):

$$X_I = \{X_{11}, \dots, X_{16}\}.$$

Finally, we take into account that selectivity may be dependent on the responses to ER ( $X_{12}$ ), on the (pre-existing) energy intensity ( $X_{13}$ ), on firm size ( $X_{14}$ ), on the importance of (pre-existing) environmental levies ( $X_{17}$ ) and on a set of industry dummies ( $X_{18}$ ):

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<sup>4</sup> For a much smaller sample (obtained after matching also the “Energy Use Survey” (ES)) we can decompose gross marginal energy prices as follows:

$$pe_{gt} = pe_{nt} + te_{nt} = pe_{nt}(1 + ste_{nt}),$$

where  $pe_{nt}$  is the marginal energy price net of taxes,  $te_{nt}$  the marginal energy tax and  $ste_{nt}$  the ratio of marginal energy tax over marginal energy prices net of taxes. Constructing this variable is only possible for the intersection of ES and PS data. Matching this intersection with the CIS and ECF data leads to a considerable loss of data.

$$Z_l = \{ X_{12}, X_{13}, X_{14}, X_{17}, X_{18} \}.$$

### 3.3 Innovation output

The middle part of figure 1 indicates that innovation investment leads to innovation output. We consider three types of innovation output: product -, process - and eco innovation. We observe dichotomous variables indicating whether a certain innovation has been adopted or not. The three types of innovation are likely to be interrelated in the sense that the return to a certain type of innovation could depend on the adoption of the other innovations for reasons of complementarity or substitutability between them. It is well documented in the econometric literature (see e.g. Heckman, 1978, Tamer, 2003, Lewbel, 2007) that the estimation of a trivariate probit with endogenous dummy variables raises severe problems of identification. There can be no solution (in which case the system is said to be incoherent) or multiple solutions (in which case it is said to be incomplete). The empirical literature offers several solutions to this problem. In general, these solutions boil down to imposing zero restrictions on the coefficients of some of the binary endogenous explanatory variables or by relying on recursive or triangular systems in which one of the choices is assumed to be leading (see for a discussion of completeness and coherency section 2 of Tamer (2003)). One way to avoid incoherency and incompleteness is to start from a McFadden (1973) solution by considering a multinomial choice problem based on a random utility model. This framework has been proposed more recently by Lewbel (2007) and adapted by Miravete and Pernías (2006) and Kretschmer, Miravete and Pernías (2012).

Let the total utility (in this case profit) be

$$\begin{aligned} V = V(y_1, y_2, y_3) = & \\ & (\beta'_1 x_1 + \alpha_{12} y_2 + \alpha_{13} y_3 + \varepsilon_1) y_1 + \\ & (\beta'_2 x_2 + \alpha_{21} y_1 + \alpha_{23} y_3 + \varepsilon_2) y_2 + \\ & (\beta'_3 x_3 + \alpha_{31} y_1 + \alpha_{32} y_2 + \varepsilon_3) y_3. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The dichotomous variables for the three types of innovation are given by  $y_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$ . There are in total eight possible combinations of innovation choices yielding respectively the following profit outcomes:

$$V(0, 0, 0) = 0 \quad (3a)$$

$$V(0, 0, 1) = \beta'_3 x_3 + \varepsilon_3 \quad (3b)$$

$$V(0, 1, 0) = \beta'_2 x_2 + \varepsilon_2 \quad (3c)$$

$$V(0, 1, 1) = \beta'_2 x_2 + \beta'_3 x_3 + (\alpha_{23} + \alpha_{32}) + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 \quad (3d)$$

$$V(1, 0, 0) = \beta'_1 x_1 + \varepsilon_1 \quad (3e)$$

$$V(1,0,1) = \beta'_1 x_1 + \beta'_3 x_3 + (\alpha_{13} + \alpha_{31}) + \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_3 \quad (3f)$$

$$V(1,1,0) = \beta'_1 x_1 + \beta'_2 x_2 + (\alpha_{12} + \alpha_{21}) + \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 \quad (3g)$$

$$V(1,1,1) = \beta'_1 x_1 + \beta'_2 x_2 + \beta'_3 x_3 \\ + (\alpha_{12} + \alpha_{21}) + (\alpha_{13} + \alpha_{31}) + (\alpha_{23} + \alpha_{32}) + \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3. \quad (3h)$$

The “complementarity parameters”  $\alpha_{ij}$  and  $\alpha_{ji}$  are placed in parenthesis because only the sums can be identified.<sup>5</sup> If  $\alpha_{ij} + \alpha_{ji} > 0$  ( $< 0$ ), the corresponding pair of innovations are complements (substitutes). The model is complete because (latent) profitability is specified for all possible strategies and coherent because every strategy should have a latent profit that exceeds the profits of all other strategies. As pointed out by Lewbel (2007), the difference with respect to the traditional multinomial choice framework is that we do not have a separate specification for  $V(1,1,1)$  such as  $\beta'_3 X_3$  but instead we use (3h) derived from the model for the total latent profit function. To our knowledge this model has not been put to the empirical testing for more than two strategies because of computational difficulties. We refer to Annex B for a more detailed account of the empirical implementation. The  $\varepsilon_i$ 's are random errors that are jointly normally distributed.

The profitability of pursuing a particular innovation  $y_i$  depends on the adoption of the other innovation modes, through the “complementarity parameters”, and on a certain number of variables summarized in  $x_i$ . It also depends on the non-eco R&D and the three types of eco-investments. It is, indeed, interesting to find out which investments affect which types of innovation and do enter as explanatory variables in the innovation equations. For this reason we use the predictions of the latent variables of the investment equations estimated in the first step:  $\hat{X}_{11}^*$ ,  $\hat{X}_{12}^*$ ,  $\hat{X}_{13}^*$ , the predictions for the three types of eco investment, and  $\hat{X}_2^*$ , the prediction for non-eco R&D. Furthermore,  $x_i$  contains  $C$  is a vector of control variables (e.g. industry and time dummies) and especially  $Dreg$ , the environmental regulation dummy, which captures whether firms respond to either existing or anticipated ER. Thus, besides the possible influence of ER on (eco) investment, we also account for a more direct effect of ER on innovation output. In essence, the coefficient of  $Dreg$  provides a test of the weak version of the PH in the terminology of Jaffe and Palmer (1997).

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<sup>5</sup> Notice that if the  $\alpha_{ij}$ 's are equal to zero, we are in the presence of a trivariate Probit model. Methods for estimating such models are readily available (see Capellari and Jenkins (2003, 2006) and Train (2003)).

### 3.4 Production function

Finally, we investigate the strong version of the PH by relating ER to labor productivity ( $LP$ ) via the effects of innovation on the  $TFP$  component of  $LP$ . Again we shall allow the three types of innovations to have synergy effects. But whereas in the previous sub-section the synergy manifested itself in terms of a latent profit function, this time we let the synergy manifest itself in terms of  $TFP$ . To this end we estimate an augmented labor-productivity ( $LP$ ) model:

$$LP_t = [\sum_{ijk} \varphi_{ijk} I(y_{1t} = i, y_{2t} = j, y_{3t} = k)] + \theta X_{3t} + \phi_3(i, j, k \in \{0,1\}), \quad (4)$$

with the first term on the RHS of (4) a short-cut for the set of seven innovation combination dummies for the  $TFP$  contribution of innovation and besides the reference category  $I(0,0,0)$ .  $X_{3t}$  is a set of control variables (including capital-labor intensities, labor inputs, industry dummies and including the constant term) and  $\phi_3$  is a random error term that is assumed to be normally distributed. Since the innovation output measures are latent and endogenous, we also have to use instrumental variable estimation methods to obtain an unbiased assessment of their ex-post contribution to  $TFP$  (see e.g. Wooldridge, 2002).

It is possible to test formally the complementarity and substitutability of innovation modes for productivity. This can be achieved by applying the super (sub) modularity test proposed by Mohnen and Röller (2005). This test is based on super- and sub modularity of the  $LP$  equation in terms of the innovation combination dummies. If  $LP$  is super modular with respect to a combination of innovation modes, this is evidence of complementarity between innovation modes. In the case of sub modularity, the modes are substitutes.

For  $N = 3$  we have 8 possible combinations of innovation modes, similar as in Polder et al. (2010). Let  $I_j$  denote a possible combination of innovation modes, where  $j = 1, \dots, 8$ . Note that if  $I_j = 1 \Rightarrow I_{k(k \neq j)} = 0$ . We will use the shorthand  $f(I_j)$  to denote the value of the  $LP$  equation when  $I_j = 1$ .<sup>6</sup> Super modularity is then defined as

$$f(I_j) + f(I_k) \leq f(I_j \vee I_k) + f(I_j \wedge I_k) \quad \forall j, k$$

And likewise, sub modularity is defined as

$$f(I_j) + f(I_k) \geq f(I_j \vee I_k) + f(I_j \wedge I_k) \quad \forall j, k$$

where  $\vee$  is the component wise maximum of  $I_j$  and  $I_k$ , and  $\wedge$  the component wise minimum. We do not need all these inequalities. To test the complementarity be-

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<sup>6</sup> The contribution of other variables than innovation dummies cancels out and thus can be excluded from the exposition

tween two innovation modes, we only need to make pairwise comparisons keeping the third mode constant. In addition, some inequalities are trivial. For example, for  $I_j = (0,0,0)$  and  $I_k = (1,1,0)$  we have

$$f(0,0,0) + f(1,1,0) \leq f(1,1,0) + f(0,0,0).$$

Only the combinations where the minimum and maximum operators lead to different combinations than the left-hand sides are non-trivial. Thus, combination  $I_j$  should have at least one element that is smaller than the corresponding element in  $I_k$ , and at least one element should be bigger (i.e. at least one innovation mode should occur in  $I_j$  but not in  $I_k$  and vice versa). For testing the complementarity between, for example, product ( $y_1$ ) and process innovation ( $y_2$ ) in the three-dimensional case, we therefore have  $I_j = (0,1,D)$  and  $I_k = (1,0,D)$ , with  $D = \{0,1\}$ , and the inequality restrictions are:

$$f(0,1,0) + f(1,0,0) \leq f(1,1,0) + f(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow \varphi_{010} + \varphi_{100} - \varphi_{110} - \varphi_{000} \leq 0,$$

$$f(0,1,1) + f(1,0,1) \leq f(1,1,1) + f(0,0,1) \Leftrightarrow \varphi_{011} + \varphi_{101} - \varphi_{111} - \varphi_{001} \leq 0.$$

Similar inequality conditions can be derived for the (conditional) pairwise comparisons of the *TFP* regression coefficients pertaining to other innovation combinations. Furthermore, the inequalities for sub modularity are easily obtained by replacing ‘<=’ with ‘>=’. Kodde and Palm (1986) derived a Wald test-statistic for testing these inequalities for regression coefficients.

For  $N = 3$   $\varphi = \{\varphi_{000}, \varphi_{001}, \varphi_{010}, \varphi_{011}, \varphi_{100}, \varphi_{101}, \varphi_{110}, \varphi_{111}\}$  is the vector of coefficients on the dummies for innovation mode combinations in the augmented *TFP* model. We will apply the Kodde-Palm (Kodde and Palm, 1986) test using the IV estimates ( $\varphi_{IV}$ ) of (4).

#### 4. Data

We have constructed a comprehensive dataset by linking firm-level data (manufacturing only) for 2000 – 2008. These data were sourced from four surveys:

1) The survey on environmental costs of firms (ECF). The survey covers the years 2000 – 2008 and beyond. This is one of the most important data sources in this research project. The survey collects (amongst others) data on environmental current exploitation costs, two types of environmental investment, environmental subsidies and expenses on environmental R&D. Environmental investment other than eco R&D can be broken down into “end-of-pipe” investment and investment related to the renewing of production processes (so-called “process integrated eco investment”). Because of the fact that this survey only collects data for manufacturing, our empirical analysis will be restricted to this branch of the economy.



2) The energy use survey (ES), which covers the same period as the ECF Survey. This survey collects volume data on energy consumption of different types of energy use and these can be used to construct marginal energy prices at the firm-level after linking with the data on energy costs collected in the Production Surveys. As natural gas and electricity are the most important energy sources for almost all firms, our measures for energy prices will be derived from firm-level data for these two energy sources. The data for the two types of energy can be lumped into one measure by using weights that reflect the energy content in TJ of each constituent source of energy. Another interesting contribution of this data source is that it enables the calculation of the carbon-tax component of (gross) marginal energy prices for gas and electricity by using data on the energy price tariff structures (tariff schemes) and the tax structure of energy prices for these two types of energy use. For a limited number of firms we can thus make a distinction between gross marginal energy tariffs and the carbon tax component of gross marginal energy tariffs for the two types of energy. But this exercise is only possible for the firms sampled in the ES-survey. Because of the poor coverage of ES with CIS we face a considerable loss of data when trying to account for the carbon-tax component of energy prices as well as for ER. We have estimated some eco-investment equations with carbon taxes included, but the core models presented in this paper are based on marginal energy prices without paying attention to carbon taxes.

3) The Community Innovation Surveys for 2002-2004, 2004-2006 and 2006-2008. This survey is used to obtain data on the various types of innovation adopted, the R&D inputs into (technological) innovation and other variables, such as e.g. the dependence on foreign markets, innovation subsidies received from different bodies and innovation cooperation. The final edition of CIS can be used to investigate the synergies of simultaneously adopting environmental innovations targeted at production cost reductions and environmental innovations targeted at decreasing the environmental burden of final consumption by creating new user value. Because all firms responded to the question on environmental regulation (existing or anticipated) this variable can be seen as an important determinant for explaining synergy effects among innovations.

4) The Production Statistics Survey (PS). This survey contains firm-level data on gross output, turnover, value added, intermediate inputs and the total energy costs of firms. After matching with industry-level deflators, this source can be used to construct different output measures such as value-added and gross-output productivity, energy cost shares and profitability.

Table 1a summarizes the coverage of different surveys for manufacturing before and after data linking and before deleting “item non-response” and/or implausible values (such as a recorded negative value added). The ECF survey has the highest coverage with PS. The ES survey can be considered as the best source for volume data on energy use and the distinction between marginal energy prices net of carbon-taxes and the carbon-tax component of gross marginal energy prices. But its match with ECF and PS (which collects data on energy costs and volumes for gas

and electricity) is rather poor.<sup>7</sup> A similar poor match can also be found when linking ES to CIS (not shown in the table).

**Table 1a: Sample coverage (manufacturing only)**

	PS	CIS	ECF	ES	ECF&PS	ES&ECF	ECF&PS &CIS
2002	5751		8782	1647	4246	1207	
2004	4966	2538	7867	1851	3732	1294	1441
2006	4300	2133	7296	1683	3344	1110	1238
2008	3808	2164	7230	1602	3156	989	1289

For this reason we choose not to start with the data that are available after matching all four available surveys. Instead we use two separate blocks of data: for the modeling of the three types of eco investment (including eco R&D) we use the ECF&PS panel and after calculating (gross) marginal energy prices using the data available on the volumes of energy use for gas and electricity in the PS survey and the corresponding energy price tariff schemes published by SN. For non-eco R&D innovation investment we use the ECF&CIS-panel for distinguishing between eco R&D and non-eco R&D.<sup>8</sup> Thereafter, the predictions from the innovation investment models are used for modeling the decisions to innovate. At this stage the CIS data are imperative, not at least as this is the only source that collects data on the importance of ER (either existing or anticipated). Annex A presents a list of the variables that are available for assessing the PH in this study. A subset of these variables is used in the empirical application.

Table 1b summarizes some descriptive statistics for the variables used in the models. We restrict the discussion to some interesting results. It is noticeable that when the CIS data are merged with the PS and ECF data some variables, such as firm size, eco-R&D per employee, eco-investment and eco subsidies received, display a higher average than before the merging. This is due to the fact that the CIS survey uses relatively larger firms.<sup>9</sup> The means of the variables that originate from the CIS survey do not change very much after merging with other surveys. It can be seen that eco-R&D is considerably lower than other (non-eco) R&D investment. The share of eco-R&D in total R&D investment expenditure amounts to 30 %. Furthermore, the share of process integrated eco investment in total eco investment (eco R&D excluded) is about 44 %. These percentages remain of the same order of magnitude when calculated for the full panel obtained after linking the PS, ECF and CIS surveys. Finally, it can be seen that about 31 % of the firms in this panel responded to ER, either existing or anticipated.

<sup>7</sup> These surveys are carried out every year.

<sup>8</sup>As CIS collects data on total R&D, only this match enables a distinction between eco - and non-eco R&D.

<sup>9</sup>The main objective of the ES survey is to produce aggregate energy statistics and the distribution of energy use is very skewed to the right.

A more detailed account of the distribution of some key variables is given in table 1c. In general the distributions are very skew, with small values for the bulk of firms and relatively few firms with substantial eco R&D or other types of eco investment. However, it can also be seen that eco investment is relatively more “process integrated” if eco-investment is more substantial. Finally, skewness is relatively much smaller for the productivity measures used in this study.

**Table 1b: Descriptive statistics**

	PS&ECF *			CIS **			PS&ECF&CIS **		
	N	Mean	std	N	mean	std	N	mean	std
eco R&D per fte (1000 Euro)	19090	0.094	0.249				3784	0.132	0.395
non-eco R&D per fte (1000 Euro)				2860	4.190	12.874	2193	4.371	12.312
eco investment per fte (1000 Euro)	19090	0.190	2.047				3784	0.311	3.745
employment in fte's	19120	99.0	414.4	5571	115.4	487.7	3784	142.5	340.0
log marginal energy price per TJ	15042	5.863	0.276				3369	5.852	0.314
share energy tax (after linking with ES)	4742	0.161	0.103				1427	0.155	0.099
eco subsidies received (dummy)	19120	0.232	0.422				3784	0.388	0.487
energy cost share t-2	12311	0.017	0.025				3784	0.017	0.026
belonging to enterprise group (dummy)				5571	0.560	0.496	3784	0.638	0.481
engaged in innovation cooperation (dummy)				5571	0.256	0.437	3784	0.307	0.461
dependent on foreign markets (dummy)				5571	0.719	0.450	3784	0.794	0.404
subsidies received from local authorities (dummy)				5571	0.053	0.223	3784	0.061	0.240
subsidies received from government bodies (dummy)				5571	0.234	0.423	3784	0.283	0.451
subsidies received from EU institutions (dummy)				5571	0.038	0.190	3784	0.046	0.209
existing and anticipated ER (dummy)				5571	0.267	0.442	3784	0.310	0.463
share of environmental R&D in total R&D				2860	0.308	0.410	2193	0.274	0.389
share of process integrated eco investment in total eco investment	9452	0.443	0.361				1694	0.424	0.363
value added per fte (1000 Euro)							3778	63.7	58.4
log (TFP)							3571	3.731	0.504
product innovation adopted (dummy)				5571	0.385	0.487	3784	0.443	0.497
process innovation adopted (dummy)				5571	0.302	0.459	3784	0.349	0.477
eco innovation adopted (dummy)				5571	0.385	0.487	3784	0.436	0.496

\* Averages for 2003-2008

\*\*Averages for 2004, 2006, 2008

**Table 1c: Distributions for selected variables using ES&CIS&PS sample**

	<b>N</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>P5</b>	<b>P10</b>	<b>P25</b>	<b>P50</b>	<b>P75</b>	<b>P95</b>
eco R&D per fte (1000 Euro)	3784	0.132	0.004	0.009	0.023	0.076	0.115	0.373
non-eco R&D per fte (1000 Euro)	2193	4.371	0.0	0.0	0.160	1.178	3.636	17.725
eco investment per fte (1000 Euro)	3784	0.311	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.066	0.861
energy cost share	3784	0.017	0.002	0.003	0.005	0.011	0.018	0.054
share of environmental R&D in total R&D	2192	0.274	0.003	0.006	0.017	0.059	0.363	1.000
share of process integrated eco investment in total eco investment	1694	0.424	0.0	0.0	0.038	0.361	0.726	1.000
employment in fte's	3784	142.5	15.0	19.0	30.0	70.0	140.0	446.0
value added per fte (1000 Euro)	3778	63.7	26.3	31.9	40.9	53.2	72.6	133.6
log (TFP)	3571	3.731	3.012	3.212	3.478	3.730	4.000	4.498

## 5. Discussion of the results

We shall present and discuss in turn the estimation of each part of the model: the investment equations, the innovation output decisions and the contribution of innovation to productivity performance. The focus of this paper is on the contribution of ER to innovating and the estimation of synergies between environmental innovations and other types of innovations. We postulate that environmental investment can be brought into the picture for obtaining a more in-depth analysis of the Porter Hypothesis and to account for the response of firms to energy price incentives. We also investigate whether ER has a role to play in the different stages of innovation and indirectly on productivity.

We pool the data for the years 2004, 2006 and 2008. Some of the variables, like the innovation choices, refer to a three-year period ending respectively in the years just mentioned. We control for industry effects and year fixed effects (except for the investment selection equations). Some of the variables are lagged by one or two years to partly circumvent a simultaneity problem.

### 5.1 Investment

The selection and the outcome equations of the investment decisions were estimated simultaneously by maximum likelihood using the tobit type II model. The results for the probit part of the estimates (see Table 2a) clearly indicate that selectivity is present in the data. At least for non-eco R&D and end-of-pipe eco investments the correlation coefficients between the error terms in the selection and the outcome equations are statistically significant. For non-eco R&D (column 4) we have controlled for some of the variables that are usually found in the literature for explaining R&D selection: group belonging, dependency on foreign markets, demand pull and cost push considerations. As often reported in the literature, size is a significant determinant of the probability to invest in R&D as well as demand pull and the dependence on foreign markets. It is fair to say that there is perhaps little sense to correct for selection in eco-R&D investment (column 1) as only 24 out of 5528 observations have no eco-R&D investment. Nevertheless size and the importance of environmental levies push firms to invest in eco R&D. It is noteworthy that environmental regulations lead firms to invest even in non-eco R&D. Other (than R&D) eco investments are more frequent in small firms. They seem to be driven by the importance of energy in total cost, the burden of environmental levies in total exploitation cost and the existence of environmental regulations.

**Table 2a: Investment equations (Tobit type II)**

	R&D investment				Other eco investment			
	eco R&D		non-eco R&D		end-of-pipe		process integrated	
N total	5552		2842		5552		5552	
N censored	24		693		3391		3536	
N uncensored	5528		2149		2161		2016	
<b>1) Selection</b>	<b>coeff.</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>coeff.</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>coeff.</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>coeff.</b>	<b>SE</b>
log(fte) t-2	0.253	0.121	0.192	0.029	-0.055	0.019	-0.082	0.019
log(energy cost share) t-2	0.132	0.132			0.130	0.021	0.103	0.021
log(share environmental levies) t-2	0.338	0.074			0.041	0.014	0.062	0.016
environmental regulation (ER)	0.119	0.366	0.219	0.059	0.192	0.039	0.249	0.039
firm belongs to enterprise group			-0.016	0.061				
firm is dependent on foreign markets			0.449	0.077				
demand pull objective important			0.509	0.060				
cost push objective important			-0.256	0.261				
industry dummies	yes		yes		yes		yes	
time dummies	no		no		no		no	
rho	0.094	0.203	-0.658	0.062	0.686	0.093	-0.068	0.085
Log likelihood	-8054.8		-5103.2		-7485.0		-7237.6	

**Table 2b: Investment equations (Tobit type II, continued)**

	R&D investment				Other eco investment			
	eco R&D		non-eco R&D		end-of-pipe		process integrated	
N total	5552		2842		5552		5552	
N censored	24		693		3391		3536	
N uncensored	5528		2149		2161		2016	
<b>2) Outcome: log(investment per fte)</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>SE ME</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>SE ME</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>SE ME</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>SE ME</b>
log(fte) t-2	-0.161	0.022	-0.013	0.035	0.013	0.048	0.121	0.055
environmental regulation (ER)	0.066	0.032	0.156	0.065	0.224	0.075	0.129	0.082
log(p_investment/p_energy including tax) t-2	0.693	0.104			0.715	0.215	0.177	0.262
log(energy cost share) t-2	0.072	0.018			0.368	0.042	0.366	0.046
eco subsidies received	0.746	0.059			0.964	0.127	1.021	0.145
firm belongs to enterprise group			0.174	0.072				
firm is dependent on foreign markets			0.356	0.108				
innovation subsidies local authorities			0.271	0.097				
innovation subsidies government bodies			0.600	0.065				
innovation subsidies EU bodies			0.658	0.117				
demand pull objective important			0.226	0.034				
cost push objective important			-0.114	0.032				
industry dummies	yes		yes		yes		yes	
time dummies	yes		yes		yes		yes	
Log likelihood	-8054.8		-5103.2		-7485.0		-7237.6	



Table 2b presents the results for the outcome equations of the Heckman selection (or tobit type II) model for the four types of investment. To save space, we focus the discussion on the marginal effects (ME) and their standard errors.<sup>10</sup> It is often found in empirical work that R&D per employee is not significantly related to size, i.e. it increases proportionately with size. This is also what we find here for non-eco R&D and end-of-pipe eco investment. Eco-R&D rises less than proportionately with size. Only process integrated eco investments grow faster than size. Innovation subsidies are positively correlated with all types of investment. For non-eco R&D this applies in particular to innovation subsidies received from government bodies and the EU. The estimates for eco-subsidies are rather high and this may reflect an endogeneity problem: to the extent that some factors that drive eco-investment also condition eco-subsidies, the marginal effects of eco-subsidies in the investment equations are upward biased. Firms that belong to enterprise groups or that sell on foreign markets have higher spending in non-eco R&D. Again, this result corroborates the findings of earlier research.

Now, let's turn to our variables of interest: ER and the energy price and cost shares. It can be seen that ER is an important driver for the two types of R&D investments per employee (even non-eco R&D) and for end-of-pipe eco investments. Eco-R&D and end-of-pipe eco investments have a price elasticity of around 0.7. Only process integrated eco investments are not significantly related to ER and energy prices. The three types of eco-investments increase with the energy cost shares. Thus, already at the investment stage of innovation, there is a role for ER and market based environmental instruments such as energy prices and cost considerations in explaining differences in investment intensities.

## 5.2 The innovation decisions

The main focus of this paper is on the innovation decisions of firms (i.e. the innovation output stage of our "Green CDM" model). Table 3 presents the results for the model that uses three types of innovations: 1) product innovation, 2) process innovation and 3) eco innovation. We report two types of estimates, those of a trivariate probit model (MVP), in which the effects of common unobservable variables are captured by correlations between the error terms of the three equations, and a simultaneous trivariate probit model with endogenous dummies, our model (3) inspired by Lewbel (2007), in which in addition synergies between the three types of innovations are estimated.<sup>11</sup> The Lewbel MVP model nests the MVP model and is preferred to the latter by the likelihood ratio test. We shall therefore base the discussion on the Lewbel MVP estimates.

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<sup>10</sup> The coefficient estimates are available upon request.

<sup>11</sup> Because these variables are at the center of interest, we only present marginal effects (ME's) for the four investment types, the regulation variable, size and innovation cooperation.

**Table 3: Innovation decisions (multivariate probit model with and without endogenous dummies)**

	Product innovation (1)				Process innovation (2)				Eco innovation (3)			
	MVP		Lewbel MVP		MVP		Lewbel MVP		MVP		Lewbel MVP	
	ME	SE	ME <sup>a)</sup>	SE	ME	SE	ME <sup>a)</sup>	SE	ME	SE	ME <sup>a)</sup>	SE
N observations (2002 – 2008)	3793				3793				3793			
predicted log(non-eco R&D per fte)	0.497	0.031	0.552	0.032	0.212	0.027	0.142	0.022	0.123	0.032	0.076	0.023
predicted log(eco R&D per fte)	0.024	0.022	0.048	0.022	0.074	0.021	0.072	0.017	-0.019	0.024	0.032	0.019
predicted log(end-of-pipe eco investment per fte)	0.016	0.021	0.020	0.021	0.046	0.020	0.041	0.013	0.037	0.023	0.019	0.014
predicted log(process integrated eco investment per fte)	0.090	0.030	0.121	0.030	0.049	0.029	0.042	0.020	0.064	0.034	0.045	0.022
environmental regulation	0.301	0.023	0.177	0.026	0.296	0.022	0.088	0.018	0.949	0.030	0.679	0.021
log(fte) t-2	0.100	0.014	0.108	0.014	0.027	0.013	0.012	0.010	0.024	0.015	0.003	0.009
innovation cooperation	0.444	0.023	0.421	0.024	0.345	0.021	0.214	0.016	0.207	0.026	0.153	0.018
industry dummies	yes				yes				yes			
year dummies	yes				yes				yes			
synergy product - and process innovation			0,334	0,038			0,334	0,038				
synergy product - and eco innovation			0,328	0,045							0,328	0,045
synergy process - and eco innovation							0,398	0,032			0,398	0,032
rho21	0,279	0,031	0,010		0,279	0,031	0,010					
rho31	0,292	0,037	0,025						0,292	0,037	0,025	
rho32					0,356	0,033	0,078		0,356	0,033	0,078	
Log likelihood	-4690,3		-6240		-4690,3		-6239,7		-4690,3		-6239,7	

a) The rho parameters in the Lewbel models are calculated using “generalized residuals” (see Gourieroux et. al., 1987).

All eco-investment inputs seem to contribute to the three types of innovation output, except that end-of-pipe investment is insignificant for explaining the decision to innovate in products and only weakly significant for the decision to innovate environmentally. The latter result corroborates the conclusion of Rennings and Rexhäuser (2010) that the contribution of end-of-pipe investment to dynamic efficiency (and in particular product innovation) is limited.

By contrast, process integrated eco investment seems to contribute to every type of innovation output. For product innovation the marginal effect of process integrated eco investment even exceeds the contribution of eco R&D investment. By contrast, the picture for process innovation output is the other way around. However, these differences are minor after taking into account the standard errors of the estimated marginal effects. It can be noticed that the contribution of any type of eco investment to the usual innovation outputs considered in the mainstream of the innovation literature (i.e. technological product - and process innovation) is relatively modest compared to the contribution of non-eco R&D inputs.

Non-eco R&D remains the most important variable for explaining technological innovations even after including eco innovation as a separate type of innovation output and after accounting for the three types of eco investment as additional inputs into innovation. Non-eco R&D is especially influential for product innovation. Non-eco R&D investment even contributes to eco innovation output more so than other types of investment, although the difference with other types of eco investment is rather small compared to the difference in their respective contributions for product – and process innovation (technological innovation).

Our results also show that innovation cooperation increases the incidence of all three types of innovation modes but that size only “matters” for product innovation: its coefficient is insignificant for process and eco innovation output.

Most interestingly, our results show that environmental considerations influence the incidence of all three innovation modes. Responses of firms to existing and anticipated ER seem to increase the probability of adopting product -, process - and eco innovations, as the estimate of the regulation variable is significantly positive for any of the three types of innovation output. In particular, the economic significance of the contribution of ER to eco innovation output is very sizeable. The presence of ER increases by 68 percentage points the occurrence of eco-innovation, by 9 percentage points the occurrence of process innovation and by 18 percentage points that of product innovations. In other words, in addition to the indirect effect of ER on innovation investment, there is also an important direct effect of ER on the incidence of each of the three types of innovation. We consider this last result as a strong corroboration of the weak version of the PH.

Finally, the estimates clearly point out a synergy between the three types of innovation, synergy with respect to a latent profit function. Any type of innovation increases the profitability of adopting another type of innovation. In particular, eco and non-eco innovations reinforce each other. There is no direction of causality in this synergy effects. Eco innovation can take the form of product or process innova-

tions, i.e. reduce the environmental impact in producing goods or services or lead to new products or services that are less polluting or energy-consuming. Conversely, new products or processes often take the form of eco-innovations.<sup>12</sup>

### 5.3 Productivity

This section looks into the productivity impact of applying different types of innovation, in particular eco-innovations, i.e. indirectly it examines the strong version of the PH. Because much of the discussion of the PH is concerned with the impact of ER on *TFP* we decided to use (value added) labor productivity (*LP*) and to look at the contributions of different innovation combinations to the (residual) *TFP* component of labor productivity. Do environmental regulations also affect an economic performance measure like total factor productivity?

**Table 4 Productivity regressions**

Method	OLS		GMM <sup>a)</sup>	
	LP		LP	
Dependent variable	coeff.	SE	coeff.	SE
log(K/L)	0.206	0.010	0.202	0.014
log(L)	0.067	0.034	0.076	0.017
ecoR&D per fte t-1	0.341	0.065	0.244	0.099
eco end-of-pipe investment per fte t-1	-0.016	0.008	-0.020	0.012
eco process integrated investment per fte t-1	-0.014	0.014	-0.022	0.039
environmental regulation (dummy)	0.016	0.029	0.070	0.063
d001	0.001	0.042	-0.164	0.165
d010	-0.130	0.050	-0.602	0.790
d011	-0.010	0.044	0.462	0.327
d100	0.082	0.036	0.721	0.370
d101	0.032	0.039	0.554	0.318
d110	0.008	0.042	-0.224	0.522
d111	0.006	0.034	0.051	0.107
_cons	3,313	0.051	3.259	0.090
Year dummies	yes		Yes	
Industry dummies	yes		Yes	
R2	0.278			
Wald Chi2			447.9	
P-value Hansen's J statistics			0.08	
N	2062		2021	

a) Instruments used: eco R&D per fte in t-1, eco end-of-pipe investment per fte in t-1, eco-process integrated investment in t-1, environmental regulations, year and industry dummies, log(age), log(age) squared, innovation propensities, log(K/L) and log(L) one year lagged.

<sup>12</sup> The observed frequencies of innovation adoptions are as follows for the sample used in table 3: d000=39%, d001=7%, d010=3%, d011=6%, d100=8%, d101=11%, d110=6% and d111=20%, where the first index refers to product innovation, the second to process innovation and the third to eco innovation, a zero denoting no innovation and a one the presence of innovation. The frequencies are very similar for the sample used in table 4.

We first present the results of a simple OLS regression that explains labor productivity differences between firms and over time with the help of the innovation dummies representing the innovation combinations observed in the data. Besides industry and year dummies, the regressions control for the beginning-of-period eco-investment intensities (i.e. eco-R&D, end-of-pipe eco-investments, and process-integrated eco-investments), the presence of environmental regulations, the capital-labor ratio and a scale effect. The residual represents *TFP*, and therefore the effects of eco-investments, environmental regulation and the innovation combination dummies can be interpreted as affecting *TFP*.

The OLS estimates presented in table 4 show that there is some evidence of modest scale economies: the labor and capital output elasticities add up to 1.076, the capital elasticity of output being estimated at 0.2. Eco-R&D exerts a substantial positive direct contribution to productivity besides the effect exerted via the innovation dummies included in the models. The direct effect of end-of-pipe eco investments is negative while the eco process-integrated investments are not significant. Environmental regulation does not make a statistically significant difference. Among the innovation combinations, only one, innovating in products only (d100), affects *TFP* more than the reference scenario of no innovation.<sup>13</sup>

However, a drawback of the OLS estimation is that the innovation dummies are not fully exogenous. This assumption contradicts our efforts so far to correct for endogeneity in our structural model. We have modeled innovation as a separate production process and this makes the exogeneous treatment of the innovation dummies implicitly made in the OLS estimation inadequate from a methodological point of view. To circumvent these shortcomings we re-estimated the productivity equation using the GMM instrumental variables (IV) method. The GMM estimation uses the predicted propensities derived from the innovation output model as instruments in addition to the logarithms of the firms' age and its square, and the lagged values of capital intensity and labor input. The results of the GMM estimation clearly show that the endogeneity of the innovation dummies is an important issue. Although the coefficients have different magnitudes, in essence they convey the same story. No innovation combination anymore has a statistically higher or lower contribution to *TFP* than the case of no innovation. Eco-R&D continues to have a positive and significant direct effect on *TFP* whereas the other eco investments and environmental regulation do not have a significant effect. Hence, like the study by Lanoie et al. (2011), our results do not support the strong version of the PH. Since no innovation combination increases *TFP* and since the only direct eco-investment effect on *TFP* goes via eco-R&D, the incidence of which is not affected by ER, we conclude that the total effect of ER on *TFP* is insignificant.

In order to test for complementarity and substitutability between innovation modes in terms of their effects on *TFP* performance, we need to test the inequality restrictions derived in section 3.4. The Kodde-Palm (1986) test statistics used in the Mohnen-Röller (2005) test procedure can be calculated by re-estimating for every

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<sup>13</sup>All combinations are to be compared with the reference combination (D000), whose contribution is included in the constant term of the regressions.

pair of innovation modes the GMM model under inequality constraints and then performing a Wald test of the difference between the constrained and unconstrained estimates. We run two types of tests: once we test for the null hypothesis of complementarity and once for the null hypothesis of substitutability.

**Table 5 Results for testing super- and sub-modularity using the LP equation**

**I)  $H_0$ : complementarity**

<b>Combination</b>	<b>Product-Process</b>	<b>Product-Eco</b>	<b>Process-Eco</b>
Kodde-Palm Test Statistics	2,974	0,032	9,409-E-5

**II)  $H_0$ : substitutability**

<b>Combination</b>	<b>Product-Process</b>	<b>Product-Eco</b>	<b>Process-Eco</b>
Kodde-Palm Test Statistics	5,588E-05	2,930	4,982

The lower bound for the Kodde-Palm test for 2 degrees of freedom is 1.642 at 5% level of significance and 3.808 at the 10% level of significance. The respective upper bounds are 2.706 and 5.138.

The null hypothesis is not rejected if the test statistic falls below the lower bound and is rejected if it falls above the upper bound. In between the two bounds the test is inconclusive.

The results reported in Table 5 show that a 5 % level of significance eco innovation is complementary, and definitely not substitute, to product as well as to process innovation, and that product and process innovations are substitutes and definitely not complements. Only the complementarity in the introduction of product and process innovations is no longer present when it comes to synergy in reaching higher levels of TFP. We hence do not find the crowding-out of technological innovations by environmental innovations that Marin (2012) reported for Italian firms using a model similar to ours but patent counts instead of innovation occurrences as a measure of innovation output.

## **6. Conclusion**

This paper presents a new attempt to investigate the validity of the Porter hypothesis using a more structural modeling approach than mostly used up to now in the mainstream of empirical research on this topic. We apply a “Green type of CDM” innovation model to a very comprehensive data set built after matching four surveys. The use of detailed data on energy use and energy tariff structures enables us to construct marginal energy prices at the firm level. These data and the firm-level data on several types of eco investments, non-eco R&D investment and responses to environmental regulations (ER) are used to assess the importance of energy price incentives and ER for the different stages of the innovation process con-

sidered in the CDM innovation model. Furthermore, our model tests for the existence of synergies in the occurrence of, and in the effect on total factor productivity (*TFP*) of product, process and eco innovations.

Our empirical results strongly corroborate the weak version of the PH. This conclusion can be broken down into several parts: 1) besides environmental investment subsidies and the pre-existing dependence of firms on energy use, marginal energy prices (including carbon taxes) are among the most important determinants of eco investment 2) there is a significantly positive contribution of eco investment to the propensity of introducing environmental innovations 3) existing or anticipated environmental regulations increase the propensity of firms to innovate environmentally but also in products and processes, and 4) the results clearly point to complementarities in the introduction of product-, process- and eco innovations, and to synergy between technological and environmental innovations in reaching higher levels of *TFP*. All this leads to the conclusion that environmental considerations, be it in the form of government regulations or in the form of market pressures, seem to be an important element in the decision making of firms to invest in R&D and eco investments and play a major role in the introduction of different types of innovation, in particular eco innovations.

However, we cannot conclude anything concerning the strong version of the PH, because, on the one hand, the three measures of innovation output do not seem to contribute significantly to *TFP* performance, and hence environmental regulations have no indirect effect on *TFP*, and, on the other hand, the only eco-investment that contributes directly to *TFP*, eco R&D, is not affected by environmental regulations. Maybe more time is needed for the effects of environmental regulations to show up in economic performances. Future work on dynamic modeling with sufficiently long time lags between innovation and productivity might reveal a different picture.

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## ***Appendix A: List of variables used in this study***

### **a) Data Survey Environmental Costs of Firms (ECF)**

hef_to	: total environmental levies (Eu)
inv_p_t	: environmental investments process integrated (1000 Eu)
inv_to_t	: environmental investments "end-of-pipe" (1000 Eu)
inv_to	: total environmental investment in current prices (1000 Eu)
subkl_to	: total environmental subsidies received (1000 Eu)
eco_subs	: dummy for eco subsidies $\geq$ 5000 Eu
sh_hef	: share of environmental levies in total environmental exploitation costs
sh_proc_inv	: share process integrated investment in total environmental investment
sh_subs	: share environmental subsidies in total environmental costs
sh_pi_inv	: share process integrated investment in total environmental investment
pimi	: price deflator total environmental investment
zrv	: total expenditure on environmental R&D (1000 Eu)
erd	: environmental R&D in constant prices (1000 Eu)
ecoinput	: environmental innovation input (R&D and investment; 1000 Eu)
inv_eco	: total environmental innovation input in constant prices

### **b) Data Energy Statistics Survey (ES)**

v_aardgas	: total volume of gas used (1000 m3)
v_electra	: total volume of electricity used (1000 Kwh)
prijs_electra	: marginal price electricity based on tariff structure electricity
prijs_gas	: marginal price gas based on tariff structure gas
mp	: marginal energy prices per TJ (after converting gas and electricity in TJ's)
sh_tax	: share marginal tax in gross marginal energy price
sh_tax_ex	: marginal tax as a percentage of energy prices net of taxes
mean_tax	: mean energy tax per TJ

#### Energy data Production Statistics Survey (PS)

pg_mean	: unit values gas (Euro/m3) PS
pe_mean	: unit value electricity (Euro/Kwh) PS
aardgas	: consumption of gas used (1000 Eu)
electriciteit	: consumption of electricity used(1000 Eu)
uv	: unit values total energy input (Euro per TJ)
pi_energie	: firm-specific price index based on unit values per TJ
sh_energy	: energy cost share (derived from ES and PS)

### **c) Innovation data (CIS)**

#### 1) Inputs into innovation:

rrdinx	: in-house R&D expenditure in current prices, censored (1000 Eu)
rrdexx	: outsourced R&D expenditure in current prices, censored (1000 Eu)

rrd : total R&D expenditure in current prices, censored (1000 Eu)  
 rtot : total innovation expenditure in current prices, censored (1000 Eu)  
 non-eco R&D : rrd - zrv (1000 Eu)

2a) Eco innovation output production related (2006-2008):

ecomat : innovation targeted at lower use of materials pup  
 ecoen : innovation targeted at lower use of energy pup  
 ecoco : innovation targeted at lower CO2 emission  
 ecosub : innovation by using less polluting materials  
 ecopol : innovation targeted at less polluting in production process  
 corec : innovation targeted at better recycling etc.

2b) Eco innovation output consumer related (2006-2008):

ecoenu : innovation targeted at less energy use of products by consumers  
 ecopos : innovation targeted at less polluting in consumption of products  
 ecorea : dummy for innovation targeted at better recycling by consumers etc.

3) Eco innovation output (2002-2006):

emat : innovation targeted at lower use of energy and materials  
 eenv : innovation targeted at reducing environmental impacts of production

4) Environmental regulation (ER):

mreg = estd : innovation applied to meet ER(2002-2006)  
 mreg : innovation applied to meet ER (2006-2008)

5) Other innovation variables:

inpdt : dummy for product innovation, not censored  
 inpcs : dummy for process innovation, not censored  
 org : dummy for organisational innovation, not censored  
 formar : dummy for operating on foreign market or not (not censored)  
 gp : dummy for belonging to enterprise group or not (not censored)  
 nl : dummy for head office in NLD or not (not censored)  
 co : dummy for innovation cooperation with other firms or not  
 funloc : dummy for received innovation subsidies from local authorities  
 fungmt : dummy for received innovation subsidies from government bodies  
 funeu : dummy for received innovation subsidies from EU  
 dp : dummy for demand-pull objectives important or not (not censored)  
 cp : dummy for cost-push objectives important or not (not censored)

#### d) Production Statistics Survey (PS)

fte	: employment (in full-time equivalent)
nv	: value of total turnover (1000 Eu )
nq	: value of gross output (1000 Eu)
nm	: value of total intermediate inputs (E + M + S, 1000 Eu)
va	: value added (nq – nm)
bedrlst341000	: total cost of energy use (1000 Eu)
bedrlst310000	: total cost of production (1000 Eu)
depr	: total depreciation costs (1000 Eu, proxy for capital inputs)
sh_energy	: cost share energy (bedrlst341000/bedrlst310000)

## Appendix B: The likelihood function for the Lewbel Model

In this appendix we describe the derivation of the likelihood function for our empirical application. The computational complexities arise due to the requirement to have full error support over all possible combinations (strategy choices). Referring to equations (3) in the text, there are eight possible combinations of the three types of innovation. Thus, for every adopted combination, seven ( $2^N - 1$ ) comparisons are at stake. To keep things tractable we will focus on strategy (3a). Adopting strategy (3a), no innovation at all (thus all comparisons are against zero profits), yields the following set of inequalities:<sup>14</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(0,0,1) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_3 < -\beta'_3 x_3 = UB_3 \equiv UB_3^d \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(0,1,0) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_2 < -\beta'_2 x_2 = UB_{21} \equiv UB_{21}^d \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(0,1,1) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_2 < -\beta'_2 x_2 - \beta'_3 x_3 - \alpha^{23} - \varepsilon_3 = UB_{22} \equiv UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3 \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(1,0,0) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_1 < -\beta'_1 x_1 = UB_{11} \equiv UB_{11}^d \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(1,1,0) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_1 < -\beta'_1 x_1 - \beta'_2 x_2 - \alpha^{12} - \varepsilon_2 = UB_{12} \equiv UB_{12}^d - \varepsilon_2 \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(1,0,1) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_1 < -\beta'_1 x_1 - \beta'_3 x_3 - \alpha^{13} - \varepsilon_3 = UB_{13} \equiv UB_{13}^d - \varepsilon_3 \\
V(0,0,0) \Leftrightarrow V(1,1,1) &\Rightarrow \varepsilon_1 < -\beta'_1 x_1 - \beta'_2 x_2 - \beta'_3 x_3 - \alpha^{12} - \alpha^{13} - \alpha^{23} \\
&\quad - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 = UB_{14} \equiv UB_{14}^d - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3
\end{aligned} \tag{B1}$$

In (B1) we make a distinction between the deterministic part (indicated by  $UB_{ij}^d$ ) and the stochastic part of the right-hand side (RHS). Notice that, for  $N = 3$ , we have one inequality involving  $\varepsilon_3$ , two involving  $\varepsilon_2$  and four involving  $\varepsilon_1$ . Any coherency problem is lifted if we take the minimum of the upper bounds of the inequalities on the right-hand sides.

So we replace the inequalities for  $\varepsilon_2$  by  $\varepsilon_2 < \min(UB_{21}^d, UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3)$  and similarly for the inequalities involving  $\varepsilon_1$ :

$$\varepsilon_1 < \min(UB_{11}^d, UB_{12}^d - \varepsilon_2, UB_{13}^d - \varepsilon_3, UB_{14}^d - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3).$$

The (joint) probability for the case of no innovation at all is given by

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<sup>14</sup> We use superscripts to denote the sum of  $\alpha_{ij}$  and  $\alpha_{ji}$ . Thus,  $\alpha^{ij} = \alpha_{ij} + \alpha_{ji}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr\{y_1 = 0, y_2 = 0, y_3 = 0\} \\
&= \Pr\{\varepsilon_1 < \min(UB_{11}^d, UB_{12}^d - \varepsilon_2, UB_{13}^d - \varepsilon_3, UB_{14}^d - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3) \\
&\quad \& \varepsilon_2 < \min(UB_{21}^d, UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3) \& \varepsilon_3 < UB_3^d\} \\
&= \Pr\{\varepsilon_1 < \min(UB_{11}^d, UB_{12}^d - \varepsilon_2, UB_{13}^d - \varepsilon_3, UB_{14}^d - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3) \\
&\quad | \varepsilon_2 < \min(UB_{21}^d, UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3) \& \varepsilon_3 < UB_3^d\} \\
&\quad \times \Pr\{\varepsilon_2 < \min(UB_{21}^d, UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3) | \varepsilon_3 < UB_3^d\} \\
&\quad \times \Pr\{\varepsilon_3 < UB_3^d\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Similar expressions can be derived for the other combinations of strategies. The expressions involve conditioning upon unobservable variables to enable GHK simulation for evaluating the integration bounds in the likelihood function. For example for  $P(0,0,0)$ , the likelihood function is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{-\infty}^{UB_3^d} f(\varepsilon_3) d\varepsilon_3 * \int_{-\infty}^{\min(UB_{21}^d, UB_{22}^d - \varepsilon_3 | \varepsilon_3)} f(\varepsilon_2 | \varepsilon_3) d\varepsilon_2 \\
& * \int_{-\infty}^{\min(UB_{11}^d, UB_{12}^d - \varepsilon_2, UB_{13}^d - \varepsilon_3, UB_{14}^d - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 | \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3)} f(\varepsilon_1 | \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) d\varepsilon_1,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $f(\cdot)$  stands for the density function of the normal distribution.