

Obwohl Hybridfahrzeuge eine Reihe von Vorteilen aufweisen, ist eine breite Umsetzung dieser Technologie erst durch die Schaffung einer entsprechenden Infrastruktur, einschließlich Ladestationen und Servicezentren, möglich. Dies ist jedoch mit erheblichen finanziellen Investitionen verbunden [2].

Hybridautos stellen einen wichtigen Schritt in Richtung umweltfreundlicherer Fortbewegung dar, sind jedoch keine perfekte Lösung. Trotz erheblicher Reduzierungen der CO<sub>2</sub>-Emissionen und Kraftstoffeinsparungen bleiben Probleme hinsichtlich der Batterieentsorgung, des Abbaus seltener Erden und der Energiequellen bestehen. Um die Umweltrisiken zu minimieren, ist es notwendig, Technologien zum Batterierecycling zu entwickeln, auf umweltfreundlichere Energiequellen umzusteigen und die Methoden der Ressourcengewinnung zu verbessern [3].

Hybridautos sind somit ein Kompromiss zwischen herkömmlichem Transport und zukünftigen umweltfreundlichen Technologien. Langfristig ist es notwendig, alternative Verkehrsmittel wie Elektrofahrzeuge und Wasserstoffautos zu entwickeln, die eine noch größere Umweltverträglichkeit gewährleisten und die Umweltbelastung minimieren können.

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## **ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CUSTOMS REGULATION**

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The ecological aspects of customs regulation are increasingly recognized as vital for protecting our planet and promoting sustainable development. Customs authorities play one of the key roles in enforcing environmental standards, which

are closely linked to the necessity of safeguarding the environment and ensuring sustainable development, as well as controlling the movement of goods that could harm the ecology. By monitoring these flows, customs can help prevent the entry of hazardous materials or pollutants, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health.

One of the main aspects is the monitoring of dangerous and harmful substances. Customs authorities work to prevent the illegal trade of such chemicals, radioactive materials, and other goods that may pose risks to human health and the environment. This includes not only border control but also tightening regulations for the import and export of similar materials.

Moreover, customs regulations serve as a mechanism to encourage sustainable practices in the trade sector. Stricter control over environmentally harmful goods not only curbs the import of products that pose ecological risks but also incentivizes businesses to shift towards more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Another important aspect is the enforcement of international agreements and conventions, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, among others. Customs services actively collaborate with other countries and international organizations to ensure compliance with these agreements and adherence to environmental standards.

Customs measures also significantly influence trade patterns. As the global community increasingly adopts various international environmental agreements, businesses are compelled to adapt their practices in favor of sustainability. This adaptation often requires them to rethink their supply chains and procurement strategies to ensure compliance with customs regulations aimed at protecting the environment. Additionally, customs regulations can facilitate the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies across borders, making it easier for countries to access and implement green innovations. By streamlining the import and export processes for such technologies, customs authorities can support the global transition to cleaner energy and sustainable practices, effectively accelerating the dissemination of solutions that address ecological issues.

Unfortunately, challenges remain in the sphere of customs regulation. Discrepancies in environmental standards and a lack of enforcement across different jurisdictions can hinder the effectiveness of customs measures. These inconsistencies may complicate compliance efforts and create an uneven playing field for businesses striving to adhere to sustainable practices.

While customs regulation is fundamental to advancing environmental protection and promoting sustainable development, addressing its challenges through international cooperation and cohesive strategies is crucial for maximizing its impact.

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## NEPOTISM IN THE ECONOMY

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Nepotism, or cronyism, is the practice of giving preference to family members or close friends, especially in matters such as appointments, promotions, and hiring decisions. The concept of nepotism includes not only appointments and promotions, but also other forms of privilege, such as reduced waiting times for a job or access to certain resources within an organization. The practice has been around for centuries and is observed across cultures and countries.

Statistics on nepotism conducted in the USA, UK and Australia show that 70.2% of people got a contact, interview, or job through a personal connection. While 91.3% would accept their dream job if there was a personal connection, 90.6% believe that direct hiring without an interview is ethically wrong. 76.6% of respondents believe that more regulations are needed to control nepotism. Also 66.9% believe that nepotism is becoming more common. Among respondents, 71.6% noted that helping friends get a job complicates personal relationships. Most people suggest that connections are more important than skills when looking for a job (53.6% vs. 46.4%)

Nepotism can occur in a variety of forms and contexts. In the corporate sector, it can involve appointing family members to high-level positions without competition. Such appointments are most common in large companies, where relatives may hold key positions, exposing the organization to conflicts of interest. In the public sector, nepotism can take even more visible forms. Political leaders sometimes appoint their friends and relatives to important government positions, which can cause public resentment, especially if these people do not have the necessary competencies to carry out their duties effectively.