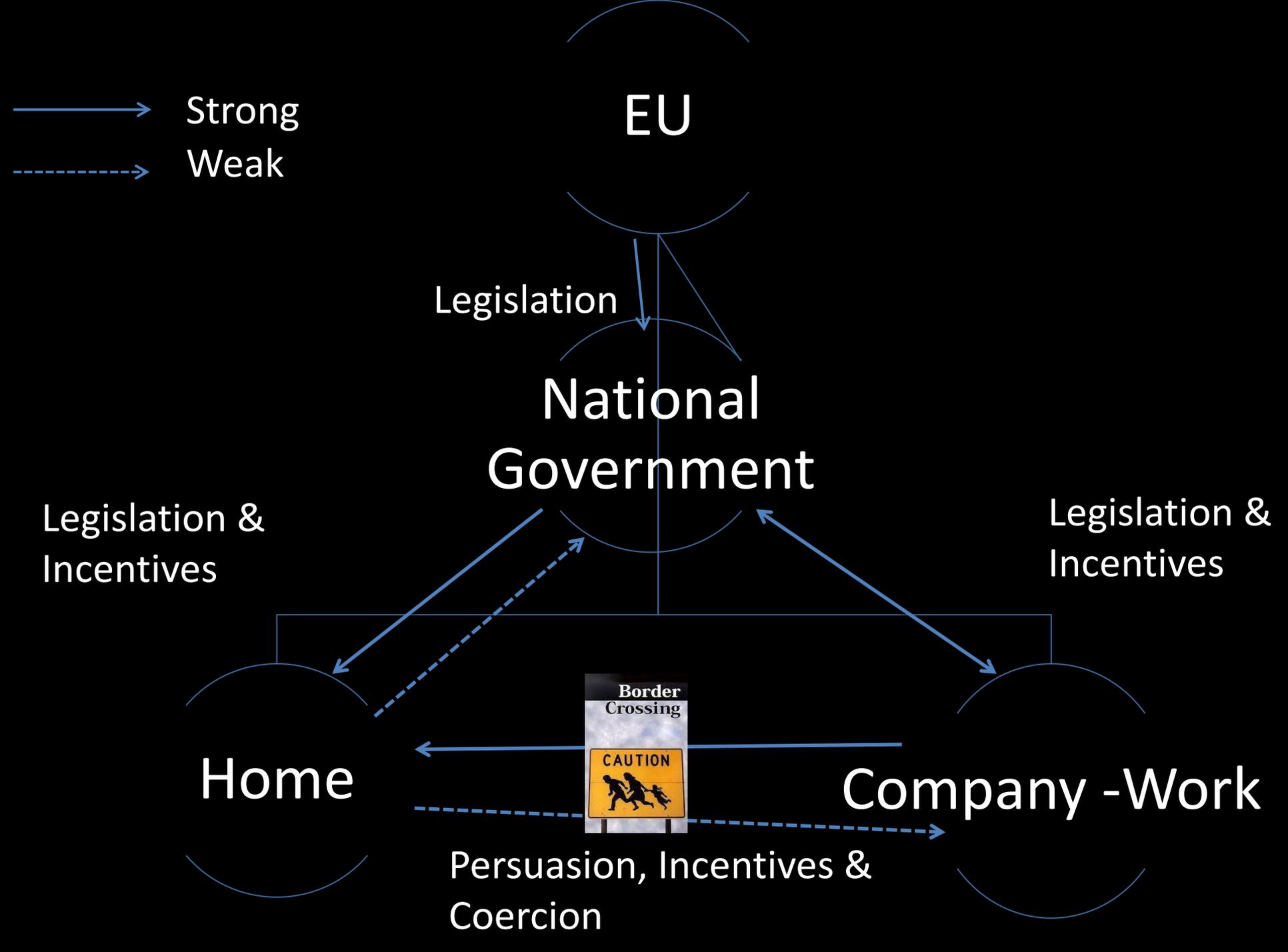


IAS Conference
Greening
Economics,
Greening Society:
What is the Role of
the EU?

Workplaces in
transnational
corporations: the
relationships between
governments, workplaces
and homes

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Dominant logics (scripts, canons) – and their counter-logics



Production's logic

- Profitability
Rationality
Efficiency
- Usefulness,
producer's
pride, Use
efficiency



Reproduction's logic

- Care,
security,
emotionality
- Gender-
Power
Relations –
Education
into a
conflicting
society



Consumption's logic

- Fulfilment of
needs,
wellbeing,
hedonism,
pleasure
- Poverty,
Status/Power

Work - Family



Production's logic

- Profitability
Rationality
Efficiency
- Usefulness,
Producer's pride,
Use efficiency



Reproduction's logic

- Care, Security,
Emotionality
- Gender-
Generational Power
Relations –

Forms of dealing with environmental regulations/degradation

- Dislocation – Environmentally convenient actions take precedence over environmentally significant ones (Stern, 2000)
- Translocation – Environmentally beneficial actions cross borders where they may not have the same effect
- Countereffects – addressing and minimizing one environmentally damaging action leads to creating another one

National Government

Company -Work

In terms of Global Oil as a company, I think that they do walk the walk and talk the talk. Obviously there's the legislation, which they have to follow. So the amount of oil that we used to put in the sea, I've seen that drastically reduced over twenty years. There was no control, and all that oil was just – there was constant like oil puddles on the sea which were visible from a height.

Company - Work

National Government

But again, we talk about DECC and the HSE being 'independent'. While they are independent, (...) the government has an interest in you producing oil, because they get revenue from it! So if DECC went to every platform and said, 'Shut down, shut down, shut down,' the country would shut down – there'd be no gas, there'd be no oil, petrol stations would dry up, the government are not getting all the tax. So while we talk about conforming and doing the right thing, there has to be a little bit of give and take to give you time to get to that place.

The logic of cost efficiency



Work

But I'll be honest: there was some discussion recently because one of the pumps failed, and the cost of refurbishing that pump is a lot of money – you're talking nearly a million pounds. Is it worth refurbishing it? What is the benefit of doing it? And so they looked at it from a carbon footprint, and there's no benefit in doing it, because of running the additional generation, using additional fuel gas or liquid fuel, diesel fuel, to run that generator, to allow that pump to run. The additional CO₂ that you're burning through running the generator.

However, the geologists were asked to get involved and confirm that, by adding the added benefit of putting the water in a well and maintaining the pressure in the substructure, that we would get an increased benefit from the amount of oil that we recovered. And so it was deemed feasible.

Logic of cost efficiency

National
Government

Home

Company

And then the Government was doing a much better deal on the solar photovoltaic panels, so I had fourteen of those installed in January. They had figured the average would be about 3.8 hours a day of electricity it would generate. On average I'm doing about 4.5. Some days are great – you know, some days you get thirteen hours. And then, you know, two days before that it snowed and I got an hour and a bit. But, *[they laugh]* you know! But it's just my way of doing things.

Logic of cost efficiency



Home

I am getting on in age. I know I'm young in terms of how long people live, but in terms of my career I'm 54 years old, and I do aim to retire at 60. So I've got six years left. Have I been offered jobs recently, for double the amount of salary I'm on now? Yes, I have! Why haven't I taken them? Because I do see Global Oil as a good operator. Like I said earlier, I've spoken to colleagues, ex-colleagues who are working for smaller companies, earning a lot more money, but they're having to put up with a lot in terms of safety and the environments they're working in.

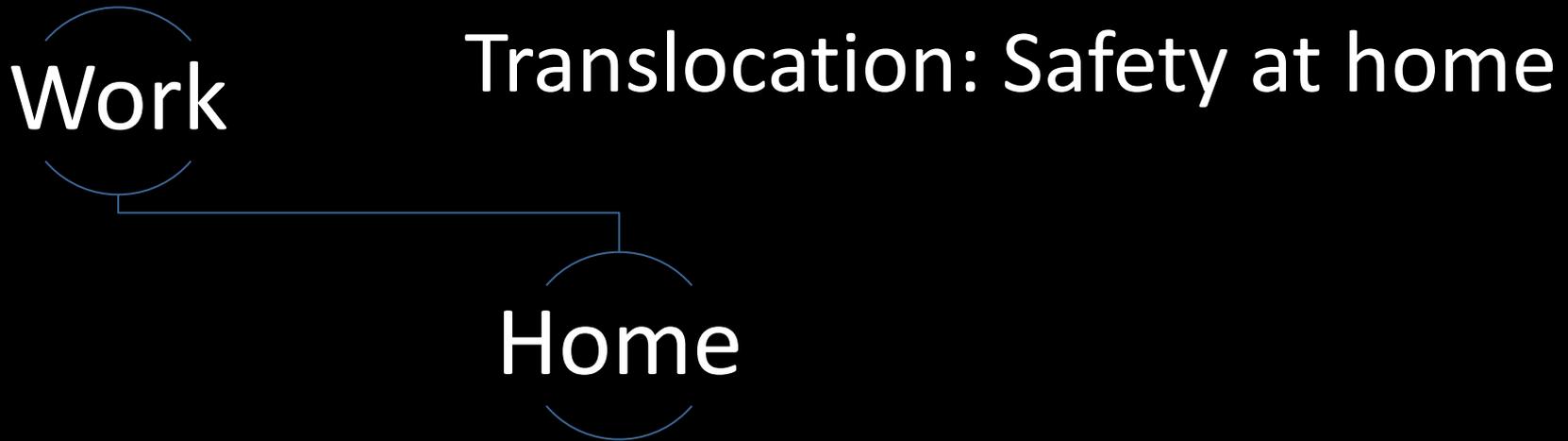
I feel that Global Oil is a safe company to work for, both in terms of my personal safety and safe as in they're big enough worldwide to absorb me as an employee. And also the pension. So I'm comfortable with where I am, with my life within Global Oil.

Balance between costs and safety



Work

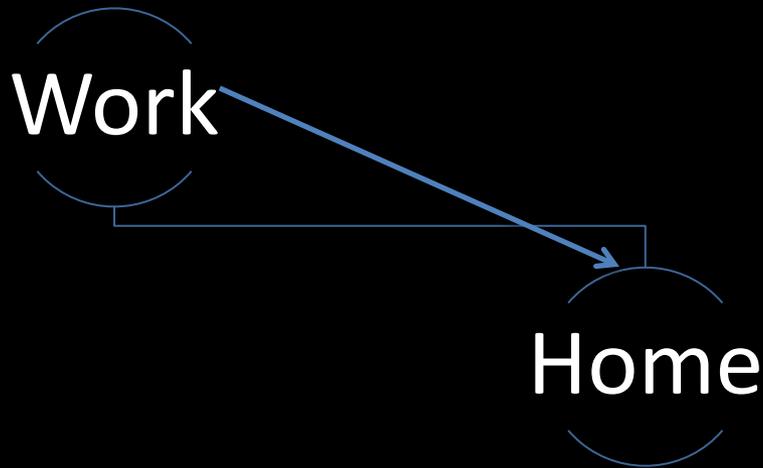
So Global Oil as a company, I think they've come a long way. And especially when I hear my colleagues working for these other companies telling me how unsafe and how they cut corners. And that's how they produce oil cheaper than Global Oil. So there's a massive cost implication for building scaffolds all the time, but that's Global Oil's policy. If you actually step on that chair, you're breaking a Life-Saving Rule. And they make no bones about it: they will support you to the hilt if you say, 'I'm not standing on the chair. I want a scaffold' – they will build you a scaffold. Because that's the safe way to do it. So I've got to commend them for that. But that's why it costs them so much to produce.



Like if I go into the garden to do some gardening, I'll wear safety boots, and I'll put goggles on, and if I'm doing some noisy work, I'll wear ear-defenders. And my wife will go in the garden, and she doesn't have anything on – she'd go in the garden in her stockinged feet and no gloves! And she's doing the gardening, and 'What! Whoa, whoa, whoa! No, no, you need to..!' 'Oh, I'm okay! You get back offshore!'

So, while I take my standards home with me, I find it not impossible but difficult to enforce them. (...) 'Yeah, watch from indoors, because I don't want the tree falling on you!' And I go through, almost do a risk assessment with the family. Because it's just second nature to do that offshore.

Translocation: Carbon production



The bad side: so I currently use a lot of energy, and a lot of wasted energy, and that is through Global Oil's policy. The assignment I'm on in Aberdeen means I have a home in Darlington, which is in the Northeast of England, and I have this home in Scotland. So I'm running two homes, large energy bills.

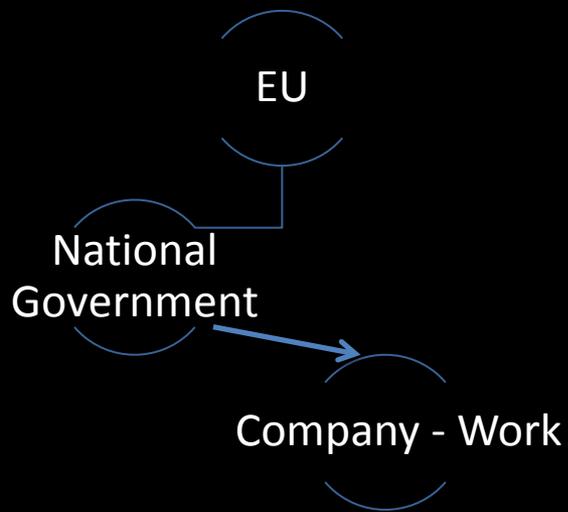
So using.. And then obviously I travel home to my family every weekend, so I'm driving to the airport and then getting a flight home and a flight back. So my carbon footprint while I'm up here in Aberdeen is quite large. When I'm offshore, obviously the only method of travelling offshore is by helicopter, so that's a carbon footprint there

Dislocation 1: from environmental significant to environmentally convenient



Work

But the recycling, for me coming from offshore, that did come from the bottom up. So they had environmental reps offshore. And the environmental reps, it was them themselves that said, 'Well, you know, we need to do recycling,' and they started looking at.. It started very big at first – you know, 'Let's separate the wood, the steel, the general rubbish.' Then it started getting into the detail of the cups, the types of cups we were using: is it more environmentally friendly to use a proper cup and use the energy to wash the cup, or go to a disposable cup? Then it was the cost of the disposable cups: is it really friendly – how were they recycled, or they're disposed of? And so they started looking at the real detail. And I thought that was really good. That was the people offshore feeding information back into Global Oil.



Dislocation 2: Countereffects

The oil on sand – because we used to dump the sand that we produced from the wells, we used to just dump that over the side into the sea. But then they started measuring the sand, the oil on the sand, and that came down and down and down. And they got it down to a level that it was unachievable, and so Global Oil decided, ‘No, we’ll ship it onshore.’

The problem I had with that is, yes, we’re not putting it in the sea any more. Global Oil are paying a hell of a lot of money to ship that sand onshore. And then there’s the carbon footprint of shipping it onshore. And then where does that sand go? It goes into a landfill. So are we doing the environment any greater service by not putting it in the sea and putting it into the land, and the oil seeping into the land?

The limits of environmental concern or: competence within incompetence

When did I become conscious of it being an environmental thing? Probably about 15, 16 years ago, when we started having what we call the `environmental representatives' offshore, and we started thinking about recycling. And then it was companies like Global Oil, bodies like DECC were coming and saying, `You must reduce your flare. You must reduce the amount of oil you're putting in the sea.'

And then people started taking it seriously. But again, I think, because of the nature of the business, I find that at the end of the day we all want energy. We all want petrol. We all want oil. So we do have to produce the oil. I personally don't think we will ever, in my lifetime, get to a state where not all our energy is coming from wind turbines and solar power and..

Questions – Perspectives – What is/could be the role of the EU?

- Would transparency in acknowledging the role of economic factors and actors in the creation of legislation change environmental legislation?
- How can the EU and its legislation recognise and address the contradictions of implementation in the everyday of the workplace?
- Should the work-home relationship be included into legislation?
- How can the EU think beyond mending what cannot be mended, but for which we need to find alternatives?