



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES TRANSPORTEURS ROUTIERS

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PRESS RELEASE

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(begin press release)

UETR WELCOMES EP VOTE ON THE REVISION OF ENERGY TAXATION DIRECTIVE

UETR welcomes the vote of the Plenary Session of the European Parliament approving the report by MEP Astrid Lulling on the European Commission's proposal on the review of the Energy Taxation Directive.

MEPs approved the maintenance of the distinction between commercial and non-commercial gasoil.

While agreeing in general terms on the objectives of environmental sustainability set by the European Union, there is a whole series of critical issues in road transport of goods. Failing any reference to the issue of commercial diesel, the new proposal is hinged on a target of reducing CO2 emissions in the area already contained in other strategies of the EC. Sustainability goals, especially given the economy downturn, must be compatible with economic growth, high employment rate and should promote competitiveness. Tax neutrality ignores the role and needs of road haulage in the real economy.

"Road transport sector does not escape from its responsibilities in the field of emissions (and pollution). The environmental sustainability of road is already ensured by stringent regulations. Companies are already required to pay for emissions according to specific requirements set at EU level. If we do not even help them in terms of taxation, it is really over for SMEs" said UETR President Mr. Francesco Del Boca, and adds: *"I would like to thank those MEPs who have understood and supported the reasons at the base of our position"*.

The European Parliament's (non-binding) position provides recommendations to the Council, which will have to decide unanimously for any changes to take effect.

(end press release)

