Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures: vehicle taxation

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The Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted, following the consultation procedure, the report by Deirdre Clune (EPP, IE) on the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures, as regards certain provisions on vehicle taxation.

The proposal seeks to amend Directive 1999/62/EC so as to allow Member States to gradually reduce annual taxes applied to heavy goods vehicles having a maximum permissible laden weight of above 12 tonnes.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament approve the Commission proposal subject to amendments.

Members seek to **offer Member States more scope to reduce their vehicle tax rates** in order to support the introduction of distance-based tolls and avoid any possible administrative burdens. To this end, they propose to **reduce the minimum rates of taxation in a single step, starting on 1 January 2024**, instead of the gradual reduction of five steps as proposed by the Commission.

The gradual reduction of the vehicle tax on heavy goods vehicles applied by a Member State shall be fully compensated by additional revenues generated by its toll system.

One amendment also stresses that Member States should be encouraged to dismantle any contradictory tax incentives that discourage low-emission mobility and subsidise inefficient and polluting vehicles, like company diesel cars.