Tax on carbon dioxide emissions CO_2 and energy

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The Commission is opposed to the adoption of harmonized rules for a CO2/energy tax at present. This would impede action by countries which are prepared for such measures, since there is no prospect of unanimous Council approval of this tax in the foreseeable future. The Commission should therefore withdraw the present proposal for a Directive. The Committee calls on the Commission to present a proposal for a Recommendation covering: - fiscal and financial support measures; - voluntary commitments by business; and - WTO regulations in order to encourage the reduction of CO2 emissions and energy consumption. On the other hand, the Committee recommends a coordinated approach by those Member States which are ready to introduce a CO2/energy tax on the basis of the draft Commission Directive. This would require the adoption of a common policy by an appropriate group of Member States. The Committee is, however, opposed to an intergovernmental agreement along the lines of the Schengen Agreement. The Committee suggests that, pursuant to the recommendation of the EU White Paper, an eco-tax be introduced in the form of a CO2/energy tax and that "non-wage" employment costs be reduced so as to give a further boost to employment or reduce unemployment somewhat.