

PROSPECTS FOR A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL TAXATION

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Environmental problems are transnational in nature. That is why efficiency of environmental protection is impossible without coordination between different countries, separated by political and administrative boundaries. The European Union is working hard on signing a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Effective economic instrument to address issues of current environmental problems is taxation. Intensive use of taxes in different areas of environmental policy both at the EU and national levels of the member states is stipulated in the EU 6th Environment Action Programme (2001), the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy (2006), the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs (2005) and the Green Paper on market-based instruments (2007). These documents define the modern approaches of the European Union to expand environmental protection activities with countries in different regions of Europe and newly independent states.

Nowadays there is a need to discuss the prospects for a global system of environmental taxation. However, the international body that have a power to levy ecotaxes doesn't exist. European Union also doesn't have such authority. The proposal to introduce similar tax, such as carbon taxes, should be supported voluntarily by each of the member states. Another example - the taxation of aviation fuel, the introduction of which still causes much debate in view of the likelihood tax avoidances (including so-called "tanking tourism", passengers switching between carriers if not all are taxed and passengers changing destinations). Unilateral action at the EU level will not have the desired environmental effects. The positive effect for environment may be achieved by levying taxes on all flights in all directions. However, national tax systems of different countries vary, there may even lack the term "environmental taxes". For example such situation exist in Ukraine because the term ecotaxes for the first time is used only in the draft Tax Code of Ukraine, which is not approved yet.

The most likely is the introduction of global system of environmental taxation on the based of socially oriented economy. The chances for political recognition has another scenario that provides a global environmental taxes, coupled with commitment to use revenues for a specific purpose, such as using them to promote economic development.

Existing prospects for a global system of environmental taxation is now considered as sufficiently pessimistic and uncertain in time. However, development of environmental taxes and charges in Europe is optimistic trend. Regarding environmental protection as one of the key European values, at the EU level is developed a clear policy objectives in energy and climate change, which provides energy saving, reducing of greenhouse gas emissions and deploy renewable energy sources by 2020.

Energy community treaty (2006) signed 34 European countries. Since 2008 Ukraine also is negotiating with the EU on accession to this treaty.

The EU has adopted the Council Directive 2003/96/EC restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity. The main obstacles to agreement was the conviction among some of the member

states, including Britain, that taxation issues should be resolved at national level, not at the EU level, and considering the existing demand for unanimity among the member states in making decisions that govern changes in tax legislation. EU enlargement was a pulse for the completion of lengthy negotiations and appropriate action. The practical importance of the Directive 2003/96/EC on the harmonization of rates is provided so that countries could not reduce rates below the minimum level.

The EU has an extensive system of air pollution taxes, acquire distribution taxes and fees for the use of pesticides. There are many taxes and duties on a wide range of pollutants: batteries, plastic bags, disposable containers for beverages, tires, oil and petroleum products. Many member states have taxes on landfill, in some countries exist taxes on hazardous waste. Fees for water use are in all member states, the Balkans and Eastern Europe. In addition there are already or seriously are proposed taxes and fees on: air transport (noise charges); chlorinated solvents, disposable tableware, light bulbs, PVC crashed mail; damaged equipment (already operating in Norway, Slovenia and Sweden), electronic and electrical waste (already in force in some EU countries), nuclear waste and air polluting waste incineration plants.

Ukraine's European choice leads the increased interest in the prospects of global environmental taxation.

Ukraine was involved in the European environmental cooperation under the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation, which operated for years 1998-2008. PCA paid attention to the quality of legislation through its rapprochement with the EU standards and developed cooperation with key issues, including global warming. Signed between Ukraine and the European Union Memorandum of understanding on energy cooperation (2005) reflects only the political intentions and does not imply any legal obligations. However, it is important that both parties have identified the need for action to address climate change, including emissions from power plants operating on organic fuel and the use of joint implementation mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. Implementation of Ukraine's international obligations to protect the environment requires the implementation of key elements as the *acquis communautaire* on energy and the environment, and indirect taxation.