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roof tile manufacturers
association**

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EU carbon taxation plan expected for March 2010

Adolfo Aiello, Economic Advisor, Cerame-Unie

The informal meeting of EU finance ministers which was held on 1-2 October confirmed the intention of the Swedish Presidency to launch a plan for the introduction of an EU-wide tax on carbon from 2013. The project, which aims at fixing a minimum levy on the CO₂ content of motor fuels, is related to the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD).

Some Member States, like Sweden and Denmark, have already introduced a carbon tax, and France has announced that a similar measure will come in force in 2010 (see Newsletter n° 26). The European Commission, which worked on a draft proposal on this subject in spring 2008, has announced that a new legislative proposal could be tabled in March 2010.

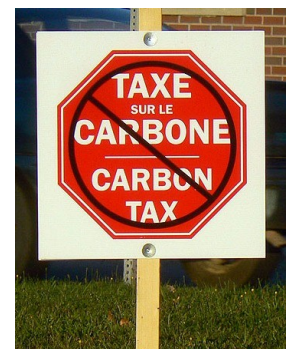
The overall objective of this plan on carbon taxation is to define an instrument complementary to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS) which covers the emissions from the sectors not included in the EU-ETS. Even though the main target of the CO₂ taxation will focus on agriculture, transport and households, nevertheless it is expected

to have a significant impact on the European ceramic industry. Particularly, in the case of bricks and roof tiles sector, those installations outside the EU-ETS (with a production capacity below 75 tons/day) may fall under the scope of the CO₂ taxation from 2013, even though they would still be exempted from the energy taxation. A second effect related to ETD is its potential impact on the "small emitters" of the ETS (installations below 25.000 t CO₂/y). These installations could opt out from the cap and trade system of the ETS in favor of national "equivalent measures". In this case the ETD could prevent these installations from choosing other possible "equivalent measures" (like voluntary agreements), because they would be covered by the CO₂ taxation. Considering that the minimum levy for industrial use is expected to be fixed at 10 €/ton CO₂, the financial cost risks undermining the international competitiveness of the industry.

However, the Commission's taxation and customs depart-

ment (DG TAXUD) has declared that the carbon taxation should "mirror" the more favorable treatment which is granted to the "carbon leakage" sectors of the ETS. Therefore, should the sector be included in the carbon leakage list, the installations under the ETD would be entitled to a partial exemption from the tax based either on historical emissions or on the benchmark of the best performers.

The text, which is currently discussed by DG TAXUD, will be most probably published after the new Commission is settled. As this issue concerns taxation, the final approval of the plan will require unanimous agreement of the Member States.



http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/10/1/informal_meeting_of_finance_ministers



3rd European Renewable Energy Conference 16-17 November 2009



In November, the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) is organising in co-operation with the EU Swedish Presidency the third European Renewable Energy Policy Conference. 800 relevant stakeholders should be in attendance at this 2-day policy event which will provide industry experts and policy makers with the latest information.

www.erec.org/policyconference2009

EC Construction Information Platform (CrIP) Pilot website

Back in March, TBE took part in a survey on the EC Construction Information Platform (CrIP) project (see Newsletter n°23). In return for our feedback and input, we have been given access to the pilot version of CRIP, which contains approximately 26,000 construction related documents selected among more than two and half million of document available on the EC web sites.

The EC wanted an analysis of the infor-

mation needs of the construction sector in relation to EC activities. This web platform allows construction operators to access information which covers the regulatory and normative framework, policy initiatives and research programmes and projects.

The EC intends for this platform to become the "one-stop shop" which will be able to provide profiled links to relevant web pages from portals of the European

Institutions (including Agencies) with possible links to national governmental or public organisations. The first version is available with a reduced set of features and functionalities where user can search information by using simple or composed keywords.

The documents made available cover such issues as Health and Safety, construction materials and products, environment, energy, educational & learning, labour and employment, research and innovation. A set of video tutorials explaining in details each features of the CrIP is also available.



www.constructioninformationplatform.eu

News of our forthcoming Annual General Assembly 21-23 October, Munich

Only six days before our annual get together kicks off with a typical Bavarian evening of food, drinks and overall good atmosphere. We will have over 90 participants at our official dinner that will be held in the prestigious BMW museum on Thursday 22 October. Our Annual General Assembly will bring together industry representatives from 17 nationalities, including a large delegation from our new member association from Cyprus and guests from South Africa and Mr Detlef Stauch from the International Federation for Roofing Trade (IFD).

From CO₂ Emission Trading (EU-ETS) to Regulated Dangerous Substances (RDS), from the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) to the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), from roof tiles to facing bricks and blocks, there will be something for everyone to talk about and come away with.

Last but not least, CERAMITEC with its 600 exhibitors from 35 countries and the Heavy Clay Day lecture event, which is dedicated to energy efficiency from raw material to the production process and including the building level, should make for a very interesting and enjoyable business trip.

So see you next week in Munich!

