

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the driver-perceived noise level of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors' (Codified version)

COM(2007) 588 final — 2007/0205 (COD)

(2008/C 120/03)

On 24 October 2007, the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the driver-perceived noise level of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (codified version).

Since the Committee unreservedly endorses the proposal and feels that it requires no comment on its part, it decided, at its 440th plenary session of 12 and 13 December 2007 (meeting of 12 December), by 135 votes with 2 abstentions, to issue an opinion endorsing the proposed text.

Brussels, 12 December 2007.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Green Paper on market-based instruments for environment and related policy purposes'

COM(2007) 140 final — SEC(2007) 388

(2008/C 120/04)

On 28 March 2007, the European Commission decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 262 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the

Green Paper on market-based instruments for environment and related policy purposes.

The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 31 October 2007. The rapporteur was Mr Ribbe.

At its 440th plenary session held on 12-13 December 2007 (meeting of 13 December), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 48 votes with 1 abstention.

1. Summary

is no longer about *whether* they should be introduced but about *how* they should be used.

1.1 The Committee notes the much delayed publication of the Green Paper on market-based instruments (MBI) for environmental protection.

1.2 The Committee shares the views expressed on the various fiscal and environmental impacts of various market-based instruments for environmental protection (taxes, charges, fees, subsidies, rights/certification schemes etc.).

1.3 The Committee notes that market-based instruments have long been an element of political action, so the discussion

1.4 As the Commission rightly points out, MBI are a good way of tackling environmental issues in a cost-effective way. They are not, however, a panacea. The political discussion — and the Green Paper — should therefore address the relationship and interplay between, for instance, rules and bans, regulatory law and market-based instruments (such as taxes, charges, targeted subsidises and tradable permits). The Committee regrets, however, that the Commission Green Paper gives far too few pointers in this regard.