



# european community

# NEWS

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## **EC COMMISSION WELCOMES U.S. DECLARATIONS ON POSSIBLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT TAX**

The EC Commission welcomes the recent declarations made in United States government circles which demonstrate a willingness to seriously and efficiently tackle world energy and environment problems. The Commission is especially pleased to see the new US administration thinking about measures regarding an energy and environment tax. The Commission has already approved such measures, but they are subject to a "conditionality clause", meaning that they can only take effect as part of a concerted worldwide effort.

EC Commissioner Ioannis Paleokrassas, whose responsibilities include environment and nuclear safety issues, declared: "If the US is adopting such a plan, this will open the door to a rapid implementation of provisions necessary to fulfill the pledges made in Rio by all developed countries. This would also offer a new opportunity for further cooperation between the EC and the US in this crucial area."

The Commission issued its final proposal for an energy tax on fossil fuels and nuclear energy in mid-1992 to achieve an EC target of stabilizing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission at 1990 levels by the year 2000. CO<sub>2</sub> is believed to play a major role in the so-called greenhouse effect. The Community accounts for 13 percent of world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, putting it behind Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (25 percent) and the United States (23 percent) and ahead of Japan (5 percent).

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