

Consultation on the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive

Taxation of energy, through incentive mechanisms, is a powerful element of the policymakers' toolbox to make the European Green Deal's ambition a reality. The Avril Group fully shares the European Commission's objective to revise the Energy Taxation Directive so that it contributes to climate targets.

In this context, the Avril Group would like to highlight that:

- The use of biofuels in passenger transport and freight saved 33.2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2016¹; which is more than the annual emissions of Latvia and Lithuania combined.
- Biodiesel also greatly contributes to food and feed security in Europe: for instance, rapeseed is composed of 60% of protein meal and 40% of vegetable oil. While the EU imports 70% of its protein needs, there are alternative solutions in Europe.
- Finally, far from undermining biodiversity, rapeseed biodiesel and rapeseed crops are essential to bee pollination: studies show that in arable production zones, honey production can depend up to 35-40% to oilseed flowers.

For these reasons and in order to reduce the share of fossil fuels in the transport sector, the **revised Energy Taxation Directive must continue to allow Member States to provide tax incentives and grant more favourable tax treatment for biofuels. Both first generation and advanced biofuels must be eligible to such incentives, as long as they respect the sustainability criteria.** This implies that in the state aid procedure, tax concessions granted by a Member State to sustainable biofuels, are justified.

¹ [European Commission's Renewable Energy Progress Report 2019](#)