

**Question for written answer E-6058/2010  
to the Council**  
Rule 117  
**Christophe Béchu (PPE)**

Subject: Compensatory measures for the imposition of a European carbon tax

Algirdas Šemeta, Commissioner responsible for taxation, who intends to tax energy both on its carbon content and on its efficiency, has stated that 'this is not a new tax: the idea is to recast energy taxation to serve our political agenda on combating climate change'.

The Commission's resumption of discussions on an EU carbon tax is a very positive signal in the pursuit of the Union's environmental objectives. This tax is intended to apply eventually to all sectors producing pollution or using indirectly polluting technologies, such as agriculture, which has been hard hit by the current crisis.

Assuming no exemption is made for those polluting industries which are most in difficulty, what system of compensation might be put in place to help households and farmers whose purchasing power is affected by this measure?