

Total welcomes the initiative of the European Commission to review the Energy Taxation Directive and bring it in line with EU climate policy.

Tax rates, reductions and exemptions should be redesigned for all energy carriers and users, in order to better reflect their impact on climate and environment, based on validated life cycle assessments, and to provide a level playing field across the involved sectors. European legislation on excise duties should also be adapted accordingly (in particular Council Directive 2008/118/EC of 16 December 2008 concerning the general arrangements for excise duty).

The revised ETD should

- provide adequate support for the development of alternative energy carriers,
- remove incoherent treatment of some of these carriers in the various elements of the EU policy (ETD, ETS, RED, emission performance standards, ...),
- support innovation and investments for greenhouse gas reduction technologies, energy efficiency and clean energy, in order to help difficult to abate sectors, including transports, to reduce their emissions,
- strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry in the energy sector.

The future Energy Taxation system must provide affordable access to cleaner energy and mobility for all European citizens. Where needed, alternative support measures have to be developed to mitigate the effect of increased taxation on vulnerable sectors and populations, by redistributing part of the taxation revenues to the households.