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(Information)

COUNCIL

DECISION

of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

of 15 May 2002

setting up an ad-hoc high-level group on energy taxation

(2002/C 148/01)

THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular, Article 207(1) thereof;

Having regard to the Rules of procedure of the Council and in particular Article 19(3) thereof;

Whereas:

(1) In Barcelona the European Council asked the Council, in parallel with the agreement on the opening of the energy markets, to reach an agreement on the adoption of the energy tax Directive by December 2002, bearing in mind the needs of professionals in the road-haulage industry.

(2) The Council agreed on 7 May 2002 that an ad-hoc high-level group on energy taxation would be established to prepare the further work of the Council with a view to reaching consensus on the guidelines for the taxation of energy products at the Council meeting on 4 June 2002,

DECIDES:

Article 1

An ad-hoc high-level group on energy taxation (hereinafter called the 'Group') is hereby set up to prepare the further work of the Council with a view to reaching consensus on the guidelines for the taxation of energy products at the Council meeting on 4 June 2002 and an agreement on the adoption of the energy tax Directive by December 2002.

Article 2

The Group shall be composed of high-level representatives designated by the Member States. The Commission shall designate a high-level representative to take part in the Group proceedings.

Article 3

The Group's terms of reference will expire on 31 December 2002, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Article 4

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its adoption.

Done at Brussels on 15 May 2002.

For the Committee
of Permanent Representatives

The President

F. J. CONDE DE SARO