

International Energy Agency

- energy conservation and efficiency improvements in the use of energy, in particular through promoting diffusion of energy efficient end use devices and improving the efficiency of mass-produced goods, such as transport vehicles;
- efficiency improvements in energy supply and conversion;
- promoting the availability of, access to and utilization of low carbon fuels;
- promotion of safe CO₂ zero emission technologies, paying special attention to those exploiting new and renewable energy sources;
- promotion of cost-effective public transport systems for persons and goods.

Furthermore the rate of deforestation should be reduced and the potential of the world forests to act as a sink for GHGs should be increased through vigorous programmes of forest protection and development.

The Commission will present, in due time before the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development, a proposal for establishing global Community emissions reduction targets separately for CO₂ and other GHGs, including possible strategy options aimed at progressive reductions to 2005 and 2010.

In December 1990, the Commission agreed on a working paper on "Policy Options in View of the Community's CO₂ Emissions Stabilization Target", covering non-fiscal as well as fiscal measures.

The Commission working paper specified that in view of the diversity of national situations and the multitude of Community objectives at stake, the Community strategy will have to rely on a mix of several policy instruments:

- The first element relates to the substantial unexploited potential for economically optimal reductions of CO₂ emissions.
- The second element consists of R&D efforts for environment and energy and the development of renewable energy sources, how far Community efforts in this field can be streamlined and the opportunity and potential for increasing efforts in this field.
- The third element consists of different aspects of energy and transport taxation.

To elucidate these strategies, a number of proposals have been initiated for Member consideration. Under the first element, the first steps have been taken to encourage voluntary agreements with producers of polluting or energy consuming products and the Commission intends to develop them further. The Commission has recently proposed a significant Community contribution for improving energy efficiency (COM(90)365 final 13.11.90). The Commission intends to re-examine this field under the specific CO₂