

Possible initiative on road charging

Calendar:

- **Public consultation: August till November 2012**
- **Conference on Fair and Efficient Road Pricing: 5 December 2012**
- **Impact assessment work now finished**
- **The Commission could make a proposal in Autumn 2013**

Possible policy measures (1)

Phasing out of vignettes for HGV: Such a measure could be expected to accelerate the deployment around the EU of electronic, distance-based road charging

Expected positive impact:

- **Source of sustainable financing of road infrastructure**
- **Fairer pricing of road use**
- **Lower costs of ETC thanks to economies of scale**

Possible policy measures (2)

Possibility to charge for congestion in a non-revenue neutral way; mandatory inclusion of all vehicles (HGVs, cars and vans) into congestion charging schemes: this could be expected to facilitate the deployment of pricing schemes specifically and effectively addressing the problem of inter-urban congestion

Expected positive impact:

- **Reduced congestion**
- **Fair treatment of all road users**

Possible policy measures (3)

Simplification of the legal framework: Directive 1999/62/EC is seen as very complex and containing too many variations and exceptions.

Expected positive impact:

- **Facilitated deployment of efficient road pricing by Member States**
- **Greater consistency between national schemes**

Possible policy measures (4)

Greater transparency and non-discrimination: the public consultation indicated that users are concerned with the high price of short term vignettes; they also feel not sufficiently informed about the rationale behind decisions to introduce new tolls or to change the level of existing ones

Expected positive impact:

- **Fair treatment of occasional users**
- **Greater acceptability of distance based charges for HGVs and light vehicles**

Possible policy measures (5)

New measures to foster interoperability of electronic tolling systems: Despite the provisions of Directive 2004/52/EC (EETS Directive), interoperability is progressing slowly at EU level

Expected positive impact:

- **Reduction in operating costs of the systems and administrative costs for the users**
- **More rapid achievement of a fully interoperable EU tolling area**