

35 – From the “Green New Deal” to the “Teal Deal”: How Can EU Principle Transform the “Environmental” into “Ecological” Taxation

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The recent pandemic crisis reveals the urgency of protecting both the health and well-being of humans and animals in its “natural” environment.

The need for a “great reset” emerged during the Pandemic emergency has been stressed by the president of World Economic Forum – Klaus Schwab – by whom “the pandemic represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and reset our world.”

So environmental or better “ecological” taxation can play a wider role than ever before. This paper has a law approach but the opinion of economists cannot be disregarded.

A recent study of Oxford University affirms that fiscal policies can play an essential role in this (R)evolutionary perspective. Stern and Stiglitz deeper explain how can be addressed fiscal policies suggesting specific “Guidelines for policy-makers”.

So BIO-Earth and human development are strictly connected as mapped in another very important research that reveals clear opportunities in conserving Earth’s remaining intact terrestrial ecosystems. Indagating how global human influence maps, the authors affirm that “ecosystems that have low human influence are vital contributors to human well-being”.

Biodiversity has been, also, recognized by the EU as a human right, since provides the essential infrastructure support in life on the hearth and human development. So, a deeper and wider application of the European principles on “environmental” taxation or better “ecological” taxation (in its wider meaning): through promoting fiscal policies can stimulate a better diffusion of inclusive social justice together with the rights of the future generations, including health and environmental protection, according to non-discrimination and equality principle.

In this perspective at the European level is an important follow up of the purpose of European taxes (see Traversa, Edoardo; Bizioli, Gianluigi. Solidarity in the European Union in the Time of COVID-19: Paving the Way for a Genuine EU Tax?. In: Intertax: international tax review, Vol. 48, no.8/9, p. 743-753 (2020)). At the national level, the recent legislation has introduced new exemptions and reductions on ecological taxation, related to the “special” economic environmental zone (corresponding at Italian national park). These “Green (and Blu)” exemptions and reductions are not so relevant in the amount, at the moment, but that can be strengthened in the future according to European principles and legislation.

Biographical note

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