Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1183 of 3 July 2019 on the proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’ (notified under document C(2019) 4973) (Only the English text is authentic)

COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2019/1183

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on the proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative[(1)], and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The subject matter of the proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’ refers to the following: ‘We ask the European Commission to propose a EU legislation to discourage the consumption of fossil fuels, encourage energy saving and the use of renewable sources for fighting global warming and limiting temperature increase to 1,5 °C.’

(2) The objectives of the proposed citizens' initiative refer to the following: ‘Our proposal introduces a minimum price on CO_2 emissions, starting from EUR 50 per CO_2 tonne from 2020 up to EUR 100 by 2025. At the same time, the proposal shall abolish the existing system of free allowances to EU polluters and introduce a border adjustment mechanism on non-EU imports, in such a way as to compensate for the lower pricing on CO_2 emissions in the exporting country. The higher revenue deriving from carbon pricing shall be allocated to European policies that support energy saving and the use of renewable sources, and to the reduction of taxation on lower incomes.’

(3) The Treaty on European Union (TEU) reinforces citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing, inter alia, that every citizen is to have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union by way of a European citizens' initiative.

(4) To this end, the procedures and conditions required for the citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of the citizens' initiative so as to encourage participation by citizens and to make the Union more accessible.

(5) The Commission has the power to present proposals for legal acts of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties on the following matters:

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1183. (See end of Document for details)*

— for provisions for the harmonisation of legislation concerning turnover taxes, excise duties and other forms of indirect taxation to the extent that such harmonisation is necessary to ensure the establishment and the functioning of the internal market and to avoid distortion of competition, on the basis of Article 113 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

— for action to be taken to achieve the objectives of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment and of promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change, on the basis of Article 192(1) and (2) TFEU, read in conjunction with Article 191(1), first and fourth indents TFEU,

— for implementation of the common commercial policy, on the basis of Article 207 TFEU.

(6) For these reasons, the proposed citizens' initiative does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties in accordance with Article 4(2)(b) of the Regulation.

(7) Furthermore, the citizens' committee has been formed and the contact persons have been designated in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Regulation and the proposed citizens' initiative is neither manifestly abusive, frivolous or vexatious nor manifestly contrary to the values of the Union as set out in Article 2 TEU.

(8) The proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’ should therefore be registered,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’ is hereby registered.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on 22 July 2019.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the organisers (members of the citizens' committee) of the proposed citizens' initiative entitled ‘A price for carbon to fight climate change’, represented by Mr Marco CAPPATO and Ms Monica FRASSONI acting as contact persons.