

Reply to Greenpeace petition

The Commission has received a number of postcard petitions initiated by Greenpeace calling on the Commission to use the fuel quality directive to prevent imports of crude oil from Canadian tar sands into the EU.

The Commission recognises that these postcards are in the context of the proposal for a Council Directive on laying down calculation methods and reporting requirements pursuant to Directive 98/70/EC (FQD) of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels - implementing FQD Art. 7a - COM(2014) 617 final.

The purpose of Article 7a of the Fuel Quality Directive is to reduce the carbon content of fuel used for road transport by 6% by 2020. The proposal for a Council Directive ensures an appropriate methodology for accounting for the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions contained in fuels used in the EU. The aim of the Fuel Quality Directive is not to discourage the use of any specific type of fuel.

Environmental issues at extraction sites are to be addressed by the respective national or local authorities.