

55 – Remodulation of Italian Bonus-Malus in the Pandemic Framework: A Balance Between Economic and Environmental Issues

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Nowadays, it appears more than ever clear that fiscal measures could have a key role in the necessary balance between economic and environmental interests, in the adoption of “restart” policies that governments have to adopt in the post “Covid lockdown”. On this ground, the “recent” Italian bonus-malus system seems to be a useful instrument to point out this balance. Indeed, last year we analyzed this measure, in a comparative perspective with others feebates systems.

Therefore, now – right in the pandemic framework – this issue appears once again one of the main environmental key problems related to the vehicle sector.

Thus, the Italian government, within the law decrees aimed at adopting recovery policies, by underlining the importance of an environmental friendly “restart” after the lockdown, decided to improve the funds for the Italian feebate system. At the same time, a part of the Italian Parliament is arguing that the Italian bonus-malus as well could be a positive instrument to promote the restart of the car market that recorded a 98% drop due to the lockdown. For this reason some politicians, keeping in consideration car producers’ requests, proposed to add some provisions concerning a possible remodulation of the ecobonus in order to promote the economic reboot. For example, it has been proposed to apply the “bonus” also for the purchase of “medium-emission” cars or a “stock bonus”, that could be added to the ecobonus, to sell the cars already produced but still unsold; to abolish the ecotax (malus) during the current year. Understandably, all those possible measures are not environmental friendly, but they could appear necessary for the economic restart of the automotive sector that is one of the most relevant markets in the Italian economy. On the other hand, there are other proposals such as limiting the ecobonus only to the purchase of electric cars, that appear a much more environmental friendly measure, in line with the tax credit for the building of recharge stations for electric cars (so-called wall-box) conceived by the same decree and also in line with the “green” policies already adopted by the Italian Parliament before the lockdown.

Biographical note

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