Reducing Emissions from the Road Transport Sector in Turkey: The Role of Restructured Vehicle Taxes and Congestion Pricing

Speakers
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Moderator
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One of the most important causes of air pollution and climate change related fossil fuel emissions is the road transport sector. There is a close relationship between urban air pollution, carbon emissions, and heavy traffic, which is a part of our daily life in Istanbul. Reducing transport emissions gains importance in the struggle against air pollution and climate change. Therefore, fiscal measures to reduce global emissions should be discussed also in Turkey.

The research of Ayşe Uyduranoğlu from Istanbul Bilgi University conducted with Zahide Eylem Gevrek from University of Konstanz analyzes the possible effects of congestion pricing in Istanbul. Using a choice experiment, Gevrek and Uyduranoğlu investigate public preferences for the attributes of a congestion pricing scheme if implemented in Istanbul. Although congestion charges are primarily implemented to address congestion, they also significantly reduce the air pollution associated with transport.

In his research at Istanbul Policy Center and the International Council on Clean Transportation, Peter Mock has shown how a revision of the tax system regarding the issue of emissions can reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and other pollutants caused by traffic by analyzing the effect of the current taxes in Turkey on motor vehicles and consumer preferences. The current vehicle taxation scheme in Turkey has had a significant impact on consumer choices and the structure of the market, but in its current form it provides only little incentive for reducing vehicle emissions. Initial research indicates how a revised fiscal policy in combination with performance standards could significantly help to bring down CO₂ and air pollutant emissions from road vehicles in Turkey.
The event will be held in English and Turkish, and simultaneous translation will be available. Registration is needed. Please click here to register.

Ayşe Uyduranoğlu is Associate Professor at Istanbul Bilgi University. She holds a PhD in economics from Exeter University. Her research fields are environmental economics, green taxes, sustainable transport, and climate change policies. She has articles in leading environmental economics journals such as Ecological Economics.

Peter Mock is Managing Director of ICCT Europe. His main focus is the coordination of ICCT activities in Europe, mostly for light- and heavy-duty vehicles sectors. He holds a diploma degree in chemistry and economics from the University of Ulm (Germany) and a doctorate in engineering from the University of Stuttgart (Germany). In 2015/16, he was working as an IPC-Mercator Research Fellow in Istanbul, Turkey.