

SPEECH

Public Hearing “Reducing CO₂ from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles”

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Check against Delivery

Seul le texte prononce fait foi

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

With regard to the EC Communication on the review of the Community strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions and improve fuel efficiency from passenger car and light-commercial vehicles, CLEPA, The European Association of Automotive Suppliers would like to make the following assertions:

CLEPA is unequivocally committed to reversing the trend of climate change, though finding alternatives to fossil fuels and improving energy security for motor vehicles. However, it does not consider that merely setting a target rate of 120 grammes of CO₂ per kilometre by 2012, will produce **a long-term solution that is sustainable for the environment**, affordable for the consumer and guarantees mobility.

Advanced existing technology (e.g. power train, hybrid drives, turbo charging, energy-efficient lighting, improved chassis, reduction of friction, low drag and lighter materials, etc.) can reduce emissions but a certain time is needed to introduce them in new models given the current industrial processes in the automotive sector.

At the same time, the **lack of a stable legislative framework** makes the proposed 2012 deadline extremely difficult or even unrealistic due to the fact that although the EC legislative proposal can be expected in early 2008, the final legislation is unlikely to be known before 2010. This would leave too short a time for the industry to invest in new long lead items without taking unreasonable risks. The industry needs approximately seven years from the proposal to implementation of new technology.

CLEPA supports the **Integrated Approach** involving all stakeholders to reach environmental targets at lower costs.

The following actions should be taken:

- Encourage members states to promote and stimulate the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles, via labelling and car taxation;
- Invest more R&D aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions by 2020;
- Promote good practices on car marketing and advertising to advocate more sustainable consumption behaviors;
- Encourage retrofitting in order to reduce emissions from existing vehicles.

The Commission proposes complementary measures to achieve a further reduction of 10 g CO₂ by 2012. In this category of measures CLEPA points out telematics, energy-efficient air conditioning, tire pressure monitoring, tires with low rolling resistance, alternative fuels and eco-driving as promising elements. In fact, experiences show that the use of **eco-driving devices** for fuel efficiency can be used as a cost-effective means also for CO₂ reduction. This equipment aspect should be recognized in addition to the training and awareness campaigns about eco-driving.

In order to deliver long-term environmental benefits, CLEPA believes all stakeholders involved should concentrate their efforts in setting up a long-term strategy **on alternative fuels**. This approach would clarify what primary sources of energy our industry should canalise new R&D investments to rely on, for the benefit of society as a whole. This was to a certain extent the case already in the past when the choice was made to base the world economy on the current fossil fuels. Global issues such as choices to adopt new sources of energy require more than innovation by industry.

Finally, CLEPA urges the European Commission, on this issue, to develop a **10 year road map** as agreed by the stakeholders of the CARS 21 high level group. This will be in the interest of maintaining long-term environmental benefits and securing competitiveness for the automotive manufacturing industry employing more than six million people in Europe.

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CLEPA is the European umbrella association representing the interests and the entrepreneurial skills of the global automotive supply industry.

CLEPA membership is made of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules; national trade associations and European sectorial associations from several countries representing directly and indirectly more than 3000 automotive companies of every size, employing more than three million people and generating a turnover of three billion Euros.