

Position paper on Alternative Transport Fuel

CLEPA, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers, welcomes the European Commission Alternative Fuels Strategy in Commission document COM (2013)17; and, Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure ((SWD(2013)5 final) & (SWD(2013)6 final)).

- In order to reduce Europe's dependency on fossil fuels and to reduce transport related greenhouse gas emissions, the European automotive suppliers, even if they consider that there are still huge technological progresses to be made to develop the current powertrains fuelled with petrol and diesel fuels, have addressed the issue with a performance oriented focus and developed alternatives encompassing e.g. Liquid Petroleum Gas, Natural Compressed and Liquid Gas, Compressed or Liquefied Hydrogen, Bio-fuels, etc. for all vehicle categories.
- Consumer safety and confidence, material compatibility for the legacy fleet, energy density and operational range all remain important considerations for CLEPA
- However the market uptakes to reduce transport dependence on fossil fuels are very slow, even if minimum mandatory targets have been set for alternative fuels e.g. the deployment of the first generation Bio-fuels was and is still hindered by sustainability concerns (ILUC, Indirect Land Use Change; food versus fuel debate; GHG, Greenhouse gases).
- In fact, the impact on the European Union's agricultural policies and non-amortized bio-fuel sector investments might imply financial compensations undermining technology neutral alternative fuel deployments.
- The development of advanced biofuels may be further enhanced by the current revision of the Renewable Energy Sources Directive.
- European Union Member States are very slowly adopting National Policy frameworks but proceed overcautiously to their implementation.
- Moreover, due to different historical backgrounds and current needs, there is a lack of European-wide harmonization e.g. a vehicle owner crossing Member State borders cannot be sure to be able to fill his vehicle's tank with appropriate fuel once in the other Member State.
- The CLEPA Membership having heavily invested in Research and Innovation projects pleads for the development of wide alternative fuel infrastructures meeting the European Union's expectations as agreed upon by the Member States.
- CLEPA invites the European Union and the Member State Authorities to support e.g. via technology neutral fiscal incentives and Research and Development funds, to invest in the implementation of new technology neutral Propulsion Technologies i.e. current Internal Combustion Engines and new ones e.g. Natural Gas, Bio-Methane, Hydrogen, Electrical, Fuel Cell, etc. with, among other things, means for e.g. for Fuel

Cell Vehicles: mobile hydrogen storage (e.g. cartridge concept), infrastructure, H₂ supply, etc.

- As a general rule, CLEPA supports maximising the use of existing infrastructure, rather than enabling on a major investment in a new, parallel infrastructure.
- Consumers will only drive the market uptake if they face no incremental cost or if they experience an added transportation value in an appropriate technology neutral European infrastructure.
- From a policy perspective it is important to address future transportation in a holistic approach.
- Air pollution in densely populated areas may well be the most pressing concern, whereas emissions on long-distance travel/transport can be reduced by highly efficient internal combustion technologies, where the EU enjoys a competitive advantage. In this context, hybrid technology would seem to offer substantial opportunities.
- CLEPA also wishes to stress that well planned ambitious technology neutral goals provide a positive balance e.g. new employment opportunities, new technological breakthroughs, outcomes and return on investments in Research and Innovation, increased revenues for the Member States, continued European Technological Leadership.
- CLEPA pleads for a performance technology neutral oriented focus on the use of future fuels to satisfy all transport needs; technological progresses have paved the way to multiple environmental friendly and worldwide safe to use solutions.