



A European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles

Citizens' summary

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- The global car fleet is predicted to grow from 800 million to 1.6 billion vehicles by 2030. In order to ensure **sustainable mobility**, a step change in automotive technology must happen.
- The European car industry is slowly **recovering from the economic crisis**. Clean and energy efficient automotive technologies are an opportunity for the European automotive industry to strengthen its position of **market and technological leader**.
- Green vehicles, including those capable of using **electricity, hydrogen, biogas and liquid biofuels in high blends** can contribute significantly to the Europe 2020 priorities of promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- The Communication contains an Action Plan composed of over **40 concrete and ambitious measures** to be implemented by the Commission.

WHAT IS EUROPE PROPOSING IN THIS STRATEGY?

This strategy aims to provide a European framework for clean and energy efficient vehicles, including the promotion of clean and energy efficient vehicles based on **conventional internal combustion engines** and facilitating the deployment of **ultra-low-carbon vehicles such as electric and hydrogen vehicles**.

The strategy contains over 40 actions on a wide range of policy fields covering: regulatory framework for reduction of environmental impacts, research and innovation in green technologies, market uptake and consumer information, trade and employment aspects as well as specific actions on electric vehicles such as standardisation, charging and refuelling infrastructure or recycling and transportation of batteries.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

This Communication sets out a **comprehensive strategy** to promote a clean and energy efficient transport system in the EU. While pursuing actions in the fields of the legislation, research, standardisation and others the strategy will contribute to:

- **addressing climate change and fossil fuel dependency**
- **improved air quality, especially in the cities**
- **faster development of clean automotive technologies without compromise on safety requirements**
- **mass market uptake of these technologies and therefore wider choice for consumers**
- **more competitive automotive industry and associated sectors**
- **new jobs in the automotive industry.**

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

There are currently actions implemented on the regional and national level to promote clean and energy efficient mobility. There is, however, a **clear added value of action at European Union level that is complementary to Member State actions** and aims at creating the right framework conditions in particular in areas of EU competence.

For instance, in order to preserve the functioning of the internal market and to ensure that new technologies are at least as safe as conventional cars, there is a need to extend existing EU requirements on vehicles (safety, environmental performance) to cover new technologies. Further, a European standardised recharging plug for electric vehicles shall be adopted to make sure that when drivers cross borders, these can be recharged in all Member States.

WHEN IS THE PACKAGE LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

According to the timetable set out in the Action Plan, the first actions of the strategy will be taken in 2010. Others will follow in the next years.