

Brussels, 02 FEB. 2011
C/2010/624

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for its Resolution (No. 561, delivered on 22 September 2010) on the Communication on a European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles {COM(2010)186}.

The Commission welcomes the thorough analysis by, and the broad support of, the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for this initiative as well as the Senate's view that the Communication takes a well-balanced approach with an adequate ambition level with regard to the current economic situation in the European Union.

The opinion of the Senate focuses on the technology neutral principle adopted in the Communication, it mentions standardisation initiatives of electric vehicle charging infrastructure as a crucial factor and highlights the importance of the global competitiveness of the EU car industry. It also stresses that non-discrimination should be the driving force behind any proposal on demand-side measures. In addition, the opinion invites the Commission to review the EU strategy on biofuels to reflect the current state of scientific research in this area.

The Commission wishes to shed some light on these points:

- The importance of common standards on electric vehicle charging is demonstrated by the mandate of the European Commission to the European Standardisation Organisations (CEN/CENELEC/ETSI) to develop a harmonised charging interface standard to ensure interoperability of electric vehicles in all EU Member States. The mandate was handed over on the 29th of June 2010 and the European Standardisation Organisations have started the work with the aim of finalising the standard(s) by the end of 2011.
- The Commission is keen to ensure that in the process of developing technical requirements for electric mobility – both in the area of vehicle type-approval requirements and standardisation initiatives – all interested parties are consulted. In addition, the Commission is closely monitoring the developments of third countries

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with regard to electric mobility to ensure the competitiveness of the European automotive industry. It also promotes globally harmonised technical requirements through the UNECE framework and is engaged in regulatory dialogues with the authorities of key automotive markets.

- *The Commission had announced in its Communication that it would present guidelines on financial incentives to buy green vehicles before the end of 2010. In order, however, to ensure a broader consultation, the guidelines will now be adopted in early 2011 after their discussion in the CARS 21 process that has recently been re-launched¹. When working on this action as well as other measures to foster market uptake and to enhance consumer information, the Commission is of the firm opinion that such measures should follow the principle of non-discrimination to ensure a level playing field for manufacturers.*
- *With regard to the EU biofuels strategy, the Commission will ensure that the Community sustainability criteria are continued to be adapted to technical and scientific progress.*

Thus, the Commission – together with all interested parties – is actively working on the timely implementation of the above mentioned action points, set out in the Communication on a European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles. The comments of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic are very much welcome to support the process of implementation.

Yours sincerely,

¹ Commission Decision of 14 October 2010, OJ C 280, 16.10.2010, pp. 32-34.