

Synopsis

The Directive on the Promotion of Clean and Energy Efficient Road Transport Vehicles aims at a broad market introduction of environmentally-friendly vehicles.

Public procurement can be a powerful market mover for the introduction of new technologies.

The Directive extends to all purchases of road transport vehicles, as covered by the public procurement Directives and the public service Regulation.

The Directive requires that energy and environmental impacts linked to the operation of vehicles over their whole lifetime are taken into account in purchase decisions. These lifetime impacts of vehicles shall include at least energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and emissions of the regulated pollutants of NO_x, NMHC and particulate matter. Purchasers may also consider other environmental impacts.

Two options are offered to meet the requirements: setting technical specifications for energy and environmental performance, or including energy and environmental impacts as award criteria in the purchasing procedure.

If the impacts are monetised for inclusion in the purchasing decision, common rules shall be followed, as defined in the Directive for calculating the lifetime costs linked to the operation of vehicles.

This internalisation of external costs into new vehicle procurements will improve the contribution of the transport sector to the environment, climate and energy policies of the Community by reducing energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and pollutant emissions.

This Directive is expected to result, in the longer term, in a wider deployment of clean and energy efficient vehicles. Increased sales will help reduce costs through economies of scale, resulting in progressive improvement in the energy and environmental performance of the whole vehicle fleet.