

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm sure you know the importance of cutting carbon emissions, and the contribution made by transport of around 21%.

I know that there are proposals to improve car fuel efficiency, and there is some discussion on whether these should be mandatory or not. I just wanted to point out some things which may affect your decision about this.

Firstly, we drive a Skoda Octavia turbo diesel (1.9 litre engine), a large family car. Regularly on our trips from our small city (Lancaster) to the Lake District, which includes some motorway driving and city travel, I am able to achieve 70 miles per gallon or 4.03 l/100 km. This is when driving at around 55 mph on the motorway. So clearly current technology is able to meet the 120 g/km target even with larger cars. Mandatory speed limits on motorways would help immensely on this, as emissions increase dramatically with speed.

In addition, there are engine technologies being developed which will make a significant improvement. Are you familiar with the Scuderi air hybrid design? See <http://www.scuderigroup.com/> - and note that they are predicting a significant gain in efficiency ([http://www.scuderigroup.com/technology/theory\\_of\\_operation/summary\\_of\\_gains.html](http://www.scuderigroup.com/technology/theory_of_operation/summary_of_gains.html) ).

I'm deeply troubled by the use of biofuels to partly achieve efficiency measures. Biofuels will never be a mainstream solution because of the demands they place on agriculture, not just here but worldwide (Indonesian palm oil plantations are responsible for a lot of environmental damage).

So manufacturers aren't far off achieving the limits already, and could take up new technologies to enable them to achieve the limit across the range of models. But pressure is needed on them to drive this as quickly as possible, which can only be done by setting mandatory targets. Yes, there will have to be changes to industry but that is inevitable at this time of great change as we take up the challenges set by climate change.

I urge the EU to:

- \* Set a mandatory target that new cars sold in the EU should emit, on average, no more than 120 grammes of carbon dioxide per kilometre (g/km CO<sub>2</sub>) by 2012.

- \* Insist that this target is met solely by measures to improve car fuel efficiency. Other measures, such as improving air conditioning and the use of biofuels, should be seen as additional to meeting the 120g/km CO<sub>2</sub> target, not as part of meeting it.

- \* Set a longer term target to give a clear signal to car manufacturers of the progress expected of them. This should be to double car fuel efficiency by 2020, with new cars emitting no more than 80g/km CO<sub>2</sub>.

I urge the EU to stand firm against car industry lobbying that this will lead to unacceptably high increases in car prices and to job losses as production would move out of the EU. Both claims are, I believe, exaggerated.

Please keep me informed of future developments in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Gibson

15 Jun 2007