

European Commission consultation "Reducing CO₂ emissions from cars"

Avele, the Spanish association for the promotion of ELelectric and non contaminant vehicles warmly thanks the European Commission for having initiated consultation process regarding plans to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars.

Global warming, ozone, acid rain, are leading the need for major change in our transport systems and Avele would like to seize the opportunity of this consultation to draw the European Authorities' attention to the fact that electric vehicles are available solutions that offer immediate benefits for energy economy and emission reduction.

The electric vehicle allows energy savings and emission reductions of up to 50% compared with an equivalent internal combustion engine powered vehicle, while being fully zero-emission where in use. As it can cover a range of 150 to 250 km it is thus the perfect solution for urban mobility.

Another solution is the so called "plug-in" hybrid where the batteries are charged both from the electricity grid and the motor engine thanks to kinetic energy recovered while braking and decelerating. This solution increases the energy and emission savings as well as allows zero-emission mode in urban area, so preserving life quality of the citizens.

Moreover electric vehicles have access to a wider range of clean energy sources leading to an environmental impact close to zero. The use of electricity coming from renewable energy has another enormous advantage which is to achieve the total energy dependency of Europe. The use of electric vehicles also reduce the acoustic contamination in our city to zero.

Therefore Avele requests competent authorities to:

- encourage research on batteries, the cross point of all the above mentioned solutions. This being also interesting for future development of fuel cell vehicles;
- set up a large programme for development and demonstration of electric vehicles, so as to highlight their respective and immediate benefits for energy economy and emission reduction, while eliminating the burdens restricting these technologies from real market access;
- foster the development of a study aiming to depict a potential scenario for future road transportation mean through a road map, showing how the various typologies of vehicle integrating electric propulsion systems could, in economic sustainable way, be introduced into the market;
- Promote electric vehicles via fiscal measures.

Furthermore, taking into account that Europe's major commercial and technological competitors such as Japan, the United States and China are already engaged in similar programmes on a significantly large scale, Avele asks for such measures to be taken as quickly as possible.
