

Dear Sir/Madam,

European leaders have acknowledged that climate change is one of the most important challenges facing the world. Transport produces 21% of EU carbon emissions, so action to cut emissions from the sector is urgently needed. This will help deliver the EU's target to cut carbon emissions announced in February 2007.

Improving car fuel efficiency is one of the most important ways of cutting carbon emissions from transport, although it is not a substitute for action to change how and how much we travel.

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 CO₂) 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂.

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,