

Ladies and Gentlemen,

regarding fuel efficiency on cars I would like to state the following:

I myself have to commute between two major Cities in Germany every day by car and since I am not only environmentally concious but also safety concious (especially due to my current work as traffic- and safety engineer for a regional administration in charge of the national high ways and federal roads I have collected the following, first hand experience on the issue:

One of the main reasons I (and probably many others) did not buy and operate one of those already existing fuel efficient cars like the VW Lupo 3L (a fantastic vehicle by the way) on german high ways is that cruising along with 120 km/h and 800 kg I would definately not survive a collision with a 2.500 kg SUV that flies by at 240 km/h!

(Pulse- preservation- theory teaches that this would slow down the SUV to about 140 km/h while accellerateing my car to about 435 km/h !)

In addition to that, it is merely impossible to drive only 120 km/h since all trucks go for 95 already and everybody else speeds up to as fast as they can where ever the can. This stress - factor cannot be accounted for moneywise, of course, and therefore seems to be of no interest at all either, very much to my regret. (I enjoy driving on swiss high ways so much that I willingly pay for the toll every time I get there!

This is, of course a specific german problem which could be solved instantly if it were not for the mere ignorance and a few particular interests otherwise ...

In addition to that I believe massive control and charge (probably most effective with income- related fines like in Finland) would definately help solve the problem.

This, however leads to a general discussion on how money will further on buy rights against all law, which in fact shows everywhere, so that the rich will, as they can always afford it, continue to speed for fun in their heavy cars at the risk of everybody else in small, fuel efficient cars ! (The fines of € 30.- for speeding do not really hurt those who drive a € 100.000.- car!)

Conclusion:

What we really need to get ahead is a broad debate on how much luxery and consumption we should define as sustainable standard for everybody!

Why is it at all possible to get full tax deduction on "business cars" like the "hummer" ? Why not define a fuel- efficient standard car for all tax related aspects and make those pay huge additional charges who "need" more than that !

Sincerely,

A. M. Wirth