

AVERE
10.7.2007

European Commission consultation "Reducing CO₂ emissions from cars"

AVERE, the European association for battery, hybrid and fuel cell electric vehicles warmly thanks the European Commission for having initiated consultation process regarding plans to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars.

Global warming, ozone, acid rain, particle matters are leading the need for major change in our transport systems and AVERE would like to seize the opportunity of this consultation to draw the European Authorities' attention to the fact that battery and hybrid electric vehicles are available solutions that offer immediate benefits for energy economy and CO₂ emission reduction.

The battery-electric vehicle allows important 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.

The hybrid electric vehicle has no limitation in range and allows an emission saving of 20 to 30% compared with an equivalent internal combustion engine powered vehicle. Moreover, this configuration is the only one allowing energy recovery and restitution.

An in-between solution is the so called "plug-in" hybrid where the batteries are charged both from the electricity grid and the motor engine, taking also benefit from the kinetic energy recovered while braking and decelerating, which is the base of an hybrid electric system. 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, battery and hybrid electric vehicles have access to a wider range of clean energy sources leading to an environmental impact close to zero as well as to an energy dependency reduction that has never been achieved before.

Therefore AVERE requests competent authorities to:

- accelerate the edition of recommendations and rules in order to strongly limit the emissions of road and urban vehicles regarding both local and global pollution aspects.
- 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 battery-electric and hybrid 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.

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, AVERE asks for such measures to be taken as quickly as possible.
