Joint Conference on

SMART CO₂ REDUCTIONS

Non-product Measures for Reducing Emissions from Vehicles

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Opening: Mobility and Infrastructure

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The greenhouse effect is mainly caused by certain gases, among which the most significant is carbon dioxide. This is a planetary problem.

At international level all manufacturing sectors have been urged to make efforts to limit emissions.

Implementation of commitments made within the Kyoto Agreement means that innovative environmental policies must be introduced in the motor vehicle sector targeted at limiting fuel consumption.

European car manufacturers have committed themselves to ambitious programmes to limit exhaust emissions (CO, HC, NOₓ) and reduce consumption. As regards engine technology, it is an extremely arduous task to work contemporaneously towards two objectives which require increasing resources and innovation and, therefore, actions bearing on global vehicle efficiency.

Two years ago ACEA made a commitment to the European Union to reduce consumption by 25% over one decade. Fiat Auto, whose cars traditionally consume little, has reached specific agreements with the Italian government to make further reductions by the year 2010.

Apart from actions concerning vehicles themselves, for some time now manufacturers have been involved in important research and testing concerning telematics applications in the transport field, tools which are today used extensively in mobility management and control systems, particularly in urban areas.

Telematics, an essential ingredient of new mobility policies, can immediately produce significant benefits: less travel time, reduced congestion, increased safety and comfort, lower consumption and environmental impact. Investment levels do not seem prohibitive and the basic features of existing systems are improved without causing disruption.

Vehicle manufacturers have shown themselves to be both sensitive towards and active in furthering telematics applied to road traffic, technologically advanced projects undertaken in concert with top-level Public Bodies and Associations.

Among the various initiatives, Fiat Auto has actively worked to create ERTICO, today a benchmark for the European sector, and has participated in developing the 5T project in Turin. The choice of our city to host the VII World ITS Congress next November is also a recognition of the motoring industry's role of excellence in developing solutions which are in line with users' and society's growing expectations.

More advanced and widespread recourse to telematics applied to effectively address transport problems can represent the best utilisation of current infrastructures.

But even the most advanced tools can do nothing to relieve a situation plagued by almost total saturation of the structures involved.

At the same time steps must be taken to remove constraints, backwardness and bottlenecks within infrastructures through actions targeting critical elements: congestion and low levels of quality and accessibility to services.
As usual the solution requires the harmonisation of interventions concerning "hardware" (infrastructures and public transport) and "software" (telematics): numerous studies point to the validity of this approach.

The car industry is convinced of the need and ready for higher levels of CO₂ emission reduction and believes that environmentally sustainable industrial growth is correct - a fact that is fully reflected in day-to-day and planned operations.

Results obtained from products and processes that are more and more ecologically compatible, and experience with the more and more fluid traffic flows resulting from constantly developing technology are evidence of our contribution.

We believe there must be an active, urgent awareness of the serious delay in availability and modernisation of transport infrastructure. This greatly conditions industrial competitiveness at national and community level and is an obstacle to reaching ambitious goals in terms of road safety and lower energy consumption.

Our hopes lie with sound, timely plans. We would welcome the opportunity for a profitable, operative co-operation with the institutions concerned.