



Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles
International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

Climate Change and CO₂:

Automakers set out their global view

PRESS RELEASE

LEIPZIG 29 May 2008 - At the occasion of the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, the Auto Industry's worldwide organization, OICA, published a brochure setting out the Industry's views on CO₂ and Climate Change, which it describes as "*probably the greatest challenge facing society in the twenty-first century*".

"Automobiles are by no means the biggest CO₂ contributor" says OICA, with road transport (car, truck and bus) accounting for less than 16% of the total man-made CO₂ emissions, compared with 44% from electricity generating and heating. Auto manufacturers want to be part of the solution to climate change, but they cannot solve the problem alone. Dealing with the problem is going to have a real economic effect on the whole of society. So the most cost-efficient approach must be used across all sectors if society is to effectively meet the challenge.

OICA stresses that the auto industry has already done a great deal, but recognises that increasing worldwide demand for individual mobility and for transport of goods means that even more has to be done to keep pace with the increased number of automobiles.

Research and development continues on a huge scale to reduce CO₂ emissions by a wide range of fuel efficiency improvements as well as the use of alternative fuels and new technologies to provide motive power, like fuel cells and hybrids. Vehicle manufacturers are leaders in Research and Development, spending 85 billion € per year on R&D,

The industry faces a number of challenges and needs action by governments, other industries and consumers to make its own efforts effective.

Governments should provide a stable, predictable political and fiscal environment in which automakers can have the confidence to implement long-term plans to improve fuel efficiency. Through their policies, governments also must ensure that vehicles remain affordable and that the replacement of the current fleet by modern, safe and efficient vehicles is not slowed down, but accelerated.

Action is needed on road infrastructure, also a matter for governments, to reduce the terrible waste of energy caused by road congestion. In the USA alone, it is estimated that 20 million tonnes of CO₂ could be avoided every year by relieving the worst traffic bottlenecks.

Consumers themselves have a major role to play, not only by exercising customer choice but by driving in an environmental efficient way. So-called “eco-driving” could save up to 10% of surface transport sector emissions.

“The only viable way forward” says OICA “is an intelligent, coherent and pragmatic integrated approach”. “Automakers are ready to continue to outperform other sectors of the world economy in terms of fuel efficiency, but we need the contributions of all the other stakeholders to make it work.”

Finally OICA reminds policymakers that the auto industry, besides fulfilling the need for efficient and affordable mobility, is one of the main drivers of the economy in many nations. Government policies should take into account all aspects of the issues at stake, including the industry’s sustainability and competitiveness.

OICA (*Organisation des Constructeurs d’Automobiles*) has a membership of over 40 national associations of manufacturers all over the world and is the official vehicle industry representative at the United Nations.

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