

Climate change: Commission launches public consultation on revision of car labelling directive

The European Commission today launched a public consultation on information provided to consumers about the fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions of new cars. Stakeholders and the general public are invited to submit their views on how such information can be made clearer and more consistent. Studies have shown that the CO₂ labelling directive in force is not working as well as it could and needs to be amended. The results of this consultation will be used to help shape a Commission proposal to revise the directive.

The survey is designed to gather feedback on awareness of the directive and the experiences of respondents, and to consider in particular information provided to consumers regarding the fuel efficiency and CO₂ emissions of new cars in car showrooms and advertisements.

The Commission is committed to reducing CO₂ emissions from cars, which account for some 12% of overall EU emissions of CO₂. This strategy includes legislation on the average emission levels of new passenger cars, but also ensures that consumers have sufficient information to choose fuel efficient and low CO₂-emitting cars.

The CO₂ labelling directive¹ is meant to raise awareness and enable consumers to make informed choices when buying cars. Currently the information must be provided to the consumers as follows:

- a **label** on fuel consumption (expressed in litres/100km or miles/gallon) and CO₂ emissions (expressed in g CO₂/km) displayed on all new cars in the showrooms
- national **guides** on the fuel efficiency of all new cars must be available at the point of sale
- **posters** must be displayed at dealerships showing the data on fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions of all car models for sale
- inclusion of the information on fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions in **printed promotional literature** such as technical manuals, brochures, advertisements in newspapers, magazines and trade press, and posters.

The revised directive will complement the proposed legislation to reduce CO₂ emissions from passenger cars to an average of 130 grams of CO₂ per kilometre (g/km) by 2012 (see [IP/07/1965](#)) which is currently under discussion in the European Parliament and Council.

Further information on the revision of labelling Directive 1999/94/EC can be found on: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/transport/co2/co2_cars_labelling.htm

The consultation runs until 28 July 2008. Interested stakeholders are invited to participate by filling in the online questionnaire at <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=co2&lang=en>

¹ Directive 1999/94/EC