

# EuPC Focus

EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER  
PROVIDING EuPC MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW  
OF EuPC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

## AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSPORT

April 2010



### The European Commission tables strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles

At the end of this month, the European Commission approved a strategy towards encouraging the development and wide spread use of clean and energy efficient vehicles. This action is the result of a public hearing organized by the European Commission on 11 March to gather and engage reactions from stakeholders about current market practices and assess future scenarios in terms of technologies, market development and the role of institutions.

While the synthesis of the stakeholders comments welcomes the need for a shift to cleaner technologies and regulations on this direction, it also underlines that in some respects, CARS 21 objectives might be too ambitious, being unlikely to observe more than 10% of the market occupied by electrical vehicles (EVs), be they plug-in electrical vehicles (PEV), battery electrical vehicles (BEVs), hybrid-electric vehicles (HEV) or fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEVs).

The car industry continues to be the largest investor in research and development on emission-reducing technologies but the cumulative

costs from regulation and the shortage of financial resources needed for these new technologies might just act as another burden.

The strategy outlined and based on the public consultation, contains an Action Plan with ambitious measures. Among others, the European Commission intends to support legislation on vehicle emission reduction, support R&D and incentives.

The EU Industry Commissioner Antonio Tajani, noted: "The new European strategy will provide a supportive framework based on a twin-track approach: improving the efficiency of conventional engines and making ultra low-carbon mobility a reality for European consumers.

Including all types of vehicles in the strategy will ensure that this parallel approach will strike the right balance between securing the future competitiveness of our car manufacturing industry without compromising our long-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gases and other pollutants".

The strategy also pushes for electric cars, and highlights benefits and measures towards wide spread usage.

For more information:

[A European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles](#)  
[European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles - Synthesis of stakeholder comments](#)

### IN BRIEF ...

#### Re-launch of CARS 21 initiative

During a meeting held on 19 February with ministers in charge of industry and the Commissioner Antonio Tajani, the Commission noted that CARS 21 High Level-Group would be re-launched to structure discussions.

CARS 21 High Level Group was created in 2005 and composed of Member States representatives, NGOs and MEPs. The aim of the group is to examine the situation of the European automotive industry and propose future policy measures and guidelines.

For more Information concerning CARS 21 Mid-Term Review and the conclusions and report of the High Level Conference please follow the link below:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/files/pagesbackground/competitiveness/cars21\\_mtr\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/files/pagesbackground/competitiveness/cars21_mtr_report_en.pdf)

Source: European Commission



#### PlasfuelSys under a new updated website

PlasFuelSys, the organisation of plastic fuel systems providers for the automotive sector in Europe has a new website [www.plasfuelsys.org](http://www.plasfuelsys.org) which will keep its members and any stakeholder interested up to date with the latest information including EU legislation.

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The mission of PlasFuelSys is to represent and promote the interest of the Automotive Plastic Fuel Systems Industry providing a common voice to the market and its institutions.

PlasFuelSys is a Sector Group of EuPC.

## Passenger cars registrations up 9.2% in the first quarter

In March, the European passenger cars registrations were 10.8% higher than in March 2009 with most countries covering ground compared to last year.

Based on ACEA's regular reports, 1,637,478 new cars were registered in the EU. The UK accounted for 400,000 new cars (26.6% more than in 2009), Italy (19.6%) and France (17.9%). Positive figures were also recorded by Spain where the demand rose to an impressive 63.1% compared to the 2009 levels (-38.7%).

On the other hand, German registrations shrank by 26.6% to 294,375 units.

During the first quarter of 2010, a figure of 3,671,871 new passenger cars were registered in the EU, representing an increase of 9.2% compared to the first quarter of 2009 (see picture below).

Germany recorded negative figures (-22.8%), while Spain held the leading place (+44.5%) followed by the UK (+27.3%), Italy (+23.3%) and France (+16.9%).

Source: ACEA

## EUCAR sets recommendations for the EU 8<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP8)

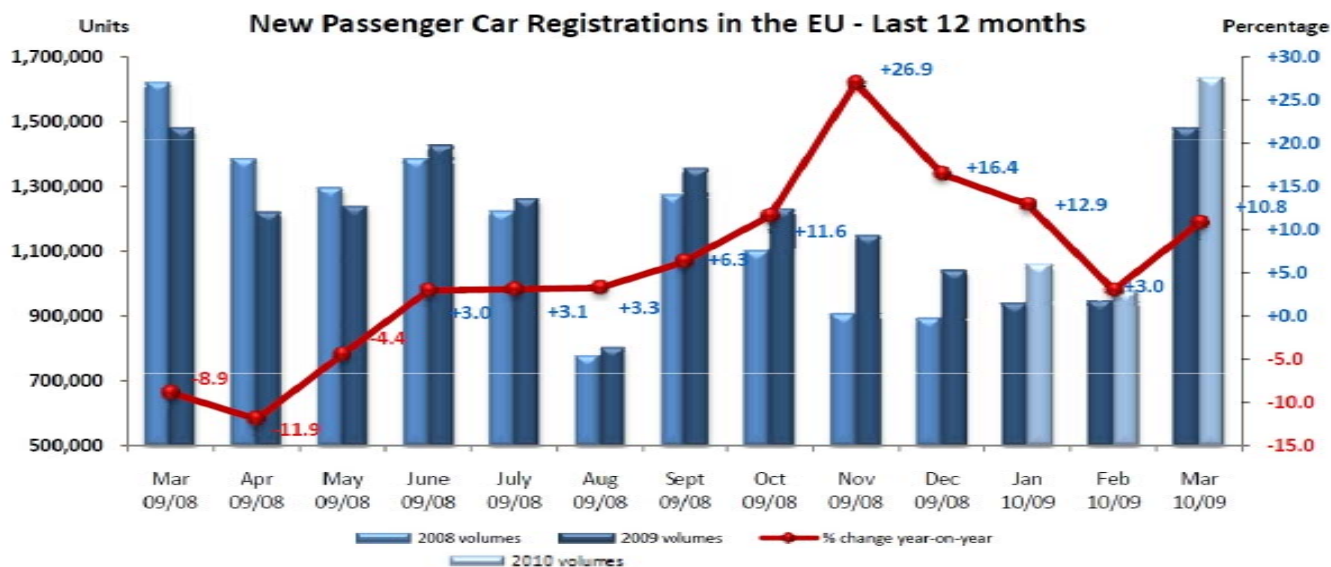
On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the European Council for Automotive R&D (EUCAR) published a paper called FP8 – Priorities for Transport” which provides a set of recommendations towards the EU 8<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP8)

covering the period 2014 - 2020.

The main conclusions of the paper read as follows:

- Structure the 8th Framework Programme to include coherent research themes, in which mobility and transport is included as one of the priority themes.
- Allocate a significant level of R&D funding to the mobility and transport priority theme, recognising road transport and automotive research as a primary topic within that theme.
- Ensure consistent cooperation between the EU and Member States to enhance the effectiveness of research activities in the European Research Area.
- Embed solutions for administrative burdens in research funding into the structure of the 8th Framework Programme.
- Continue to consult actively with industry to ensure its optimum contribution to the development and execution of the 8th Framework Programme.

Source : EUCAR



## EuPC Upcoming events

26	May 2010	Steering Committee	Zurich, Switzerland
27	May 2010	Automotive & Transport Division Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
28	May 2010	General Assembly	Zurich, Switzerland
15	September 2010	Steering Committee	tbc
21-22	September 2010	NPA Platform Meeting	Madrid, Spain
15	October 2010	Raw Materials Committee	Brussels, EuPC Offices
01	December 2010	Packaging Excom / B&C Excom	tbc
02	December 2010	Steering Committee	tbc