

Simona Trancanau
Permanent Representation of Romania
Rue Montoyer 12
B-1000 Bruxelles

Brussels, 2 February 2010

**Fuel cell electric vehicles powered by hydrogen
are part of the electric transport family**

Dear Ms Trancanau,

The fuel cells and hydrogen sector, represented by the subscribing organisations, welcome the Spanish Presidency's commitment to push **electric vehicles** in Europe higher up the EU's 2020 economic agenda.

Fuel cell electric vehicles powered by hydrogen are part of the electric transport family. We therefore look forward to actions and proposals from the Council and the European Commission to support a coordinated development of the full range of electric transport in Europe, including both fuel cell and battery powered cars.

Fuel cell electric vehicles using hydrogen, allow better driving range, better energy efficiency (reduced weight of the battery) and faster refilling conditions than those of battery electric cars. However, both fuel cell electric technology powered by hydrogen and battery electric vehicles, will be needed to guarantee the personal comfort of and flexibility for users, whilst achieving the EU's 2050 transport decarbonisation objectives. Hydrogen can be produced by all (renewable) energy sources.

The commitment to push electric vehicles from the current EU's Presidency may be the tipping point for electric vehicle technologies – both battery and fuel cell technologies that could trigger the imminent real-market introduction. Fuel cell electric vehicles are technically “ready to ride”, and will through larger demonstration projects achieve necessary economies of scale to eventually compete with conventional internal combustion engine vehicles.

Since 2003 the European fuel cell and hydrogen industry together with the EU, universities and research institutes have combined their efforts to establish the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking to kick start the market for commercial applications and ensure a role of market leader for European companies in this field.

Fuel cell transport applications such as cars, buses, taxis, forklifts, motorbikes and trucks are currently being developed, tested and demonstrated at EU, national and local level. What is needed additionally is in particular a coordinated approach towards increased project funding, regulatory support and development of technical standards both at EU and at Member State level. Such measures are crucial to providing a stable and predictable environment to attract the necessary private investment and make the shift to zero emission transport a reality.

We therefore call upon the Competitiveness Council to acknowledge the need for increased and coordinated EU financial support to commercialize electrical mobility in the EU, including battery and fuel cell electric vehicles.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the organisations below for more information,

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the EU fuel cell and hydrogen sector,

European Hydrogen Association, EHA

Name: Marieke Reijalt, executive director
www.h2euro.org

Fuel Cell Europe

Name: Anthony Brenninkmeijer - Director
www.fuelcelleurope.org

HyRaMP

Name: Andreas Ziolek
Chairman of the HyRaMP Board
www.hy-ramp.eu

Industry Grouping for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Technology (NEW-IG)

Name: Gijs van Breda Vriesman
Chairman of the NEW-IG Board
www.fchindustry-jti.eu

Subscribing organisations:

European Hydrogen Association, EHA

Representing 15 national associations and the main hydrogen infrastructure development companies the EHA is promoting the integration of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier in Europe's energy and transport systems.

NEW-IG

NEW-IG is the industry group of a public-private partnership built to implement a target-oriented R&D programme to support the broad market introduction of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies.

HyRaMP

The European Regions and Municipalities Partnership for hydrogen and fuel cells represents 30 regions and cities (among which London, Hamburg and Madrid). HyRaMP's objective is to foster the adoption of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies in Europe.

Fuel Cell Europe

Fuel Cell Europe's mission is to: "Accelerate the research and deployment of world-class fuel cell technologies for applications in transport, stationary and portable power." As the European association serving fuel cell and hydrogen industries, Fuel Cell Europe's members gather around 70 organizations from 10 European countries. These include industrial, academic, research institutions and other developers of these energy devices.