

Clean and Energy Efficient Vehicles need Clean and Energy Efficient Infrastructure.

Brussels, April 28, 2010. The European Hydrogen Association, EHA, (www.h2euro.org) welcomes the Commission's Communication on Clean and Energy Efficient Vehicles (COM 2010/186) as an important step forward in policy support for green car technologies. The video's, shown during Commissioner Tajani's press conference today of hydrogen cars, filling up at public hydrogen refuelling stations in Berlin and driving through the center of Brussels, demonstrate that the European hydrogen and fuel cell sector, has achieved major technological breakthroughs over the last years to introduce hydrogen as the other energy carrier, next to electricity, to accelerate EU's decarbonisation objectives for transport. Many European companies, including SME's, are market leader in developing fuel cell and hydrogen applications and components as demonstrated at last week's Hanover Fair, where the EHA joined over 140 companies gathered in the 16th H2 and FC Group Exhibit .

Representing 16 national hydrogen and fuel cell associations in Europe ((B, BL CH, CZ, DE, ES, F, H, IT, LV, N, NL, PT, PL, SE, UK) and hosting the secretariat of the European Partnership of over 30 regions and municipalities, HyRaMP, active in local hydrogen infrastructure development, the EHA especially welcomes the Commission's intention "to provide a leading role in working with Member States at national and regional level on the build-up of charging and refuelling infrastructure in the EU".

As indicated in its position paper on this strategy (for download at www.h2euro.org), the EHA is fully committed to contribute actively to the assessment to be made "whether synergies exist between capacity build up for electric and hydrogen vehicles and their connection to low-carbon electricity sources" as mentioned in the Action list of the Communication.

To this end the EHA, together with the support of its Belgian, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish member associations, recently published its third strategy paper "Infrastructure 21, the role of hydrogen in addressing the challenges of the new global energy system", for download at www.h2euro.org. The paper concludes that a strategic synergy exists between the need to heavily increase the role of renewable energy sources in the primary energy mix and the goal to introduce clean climate neutral energy carriers in the transport sector: both require the storage of "clean energy". This storage capability from several days onward can be best achieved through hydrogen storage and use.

Promoting the use of hydrogen as a clean and efficient energy carrier for transport and stationary power applications for over a decade, to key decision makers and the general public, the EHA also appreciates the specific mentioning in the Communication of measures to facilitate Market Uptake and Consumer Information, especially with regards to urban areas most affected by air pollution. The EHA therefore would like to explore ways to contribute to the announced EU-wide "electromobility demonstration project" in 2011 to assess consumer behaviour, usage patterns and foster user awareness of all types of electric technology as well as to test new developments in the area of standardisation for electric vehicles.

Together with its industry members, Shell Hydrogen, ENI, Statoil, Air Liquide, Air Products, the Linde Group, Hydrogenics, McPhy and Renewable Hydrogen Storage Ltd. and the over 250 companies, represented by its national association members, the EHA intends to contribute actively to the EU's 2020 goals and to maintain Europe's role of market leader in this field. The announced EU Climate Action efforts to support the uptake of technologies to reduce CO2 emissions in developing countries should therefore explore the use of hydrogen and fuel cell applications in *accumulating knowledge*, ensuring *inclusive growth* and the *clean and efficient use of primary energy sources* at global level.

For more information on EHA activities: