

International Environmentally Friendly Vehicles Conference

Transmitted by the representative of the United Kingdom

Background

1. The UK has agreed to host an international conference on environmentally friendly vehicles (EFVs) during 2005. This follows an invitation from Japan, the hosts of the first EFV conference in 2003. The conference will be badged as a G8 and EU event, which coincides with the UK presidency of both groups during 2005.

Objective

2. The objective of the conference will be to host an exchange of best practice from across the world on how to get people to buy clean, fuel-efficient cars.
3. The conference will look to answer two questions in particular:
 - Why the development of Environmentally Friendly Vehicles is so important worldwide.
 - How Industry and Governments can work to develop and encourage the uptake of Environmentally Friendly Vehicles.
4. The conference will achieve this objective by looking at relevant themes, which will be considered through a combination of presentations, break-out groups and plenary sessions. Possible themes, that have still to be finalised, include:
 - Lessons learnt from EFV policies worldwide
 - Fiscal measures to encourage the uptake of EFVs
 - Non-fiscal measures to encourage the uptake of EFVs
 - How emerging economies are seeking to mitigate the environmental impact of the forecast rapid growth in vehicle ownership and use
 - Technical Standards for EFVs, and whether more needs to be done to harmonise them worldwide
 - Marketing and perceptions of EFVs
 - Barriers to incentivising EFVs
5. It will aim to produce some conclusions on what various stakeholders around the world, especially Governments and the auto industry, can do to encourage Environmentally Friendly Vehicles.

Delegates

6. The conference will be primarily for senior Government Officials, Motor and Oil Industry representatives and other stakeholders with an interest in EFVs from G8, EU and other countries. Ministers from the UK and Devolved Administrations are likely to attend, but we do not currently anticipate the inclusion of Ministers from other countries.
7. It is estimated that the conference will involve 150-250 delegates.

Speakers

8. The conference will comprise 2 or 3 speakers for each theme. The UK would like the conference to include speakers with different perspectives on EFVs (Government Ministers, Government Officials, Motor and Oil Industry representatives and Environmental Groups) and also from a range of countries.

Date and Venue

9. The exact date and venue have yet to be finalised, but a venue in the West Midlands on the **10 and 11 November** seems likely. Delegates will be given the opportunity to visit low carbon technology sites in the UK on the day immediately preceding the conference.

Next Steps

10. The Department for Transport will issue formal invitations and a draft agenda shortly.

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