

## Information about the outcome of the deliberations concerning the national proposal for regulatory provisions to cut down diesel particle emissions in Switzerland

### Transmitted by the expert of Switzerland

#### Previous history:

On 28 October 2003, the Swiss Federal Council was presented with a parliamentary motion obliging it to respond to a request for drafting a set of proposals for regulatory provisions designed to cut down diesel particle emissions by applying the best available technology (i.e. fitting of diesel particle filters; DPFs) in diesel passenger cars. The motion was submitted by the Committee for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy. According to the timeframe envisaged by the proposal, all new diesel passenger cars imported and brought into circulation in Switzerland must be equipped with particle filters as of January 2006.

#### Outcome of the deliberations:

On 4 March 2005 the Swiss Federal Council examined the parliamentary motion and stated its position. It supported the arguments of the parliamentary motion, inter alia the carcinogenic effects of diesel particles, the resulting respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and the detrimental effects on global warming. The Swiss Federal Council nevertheless acknowledged the fact that the WTO-TBT agreement as well as the Mutual Recognition Agreement with the EU would not allow different and more stringent national emission prescriptions to be established. For this reason, the Swiss Federal Council said NO to the proposed regulatory provisions - i.e. no to the mandatory fitting of DPFs on all diesel passenger cars - but agreed with the financial incentive for such DPFs in its position statement. Having recognized this legal situation and having accepted the position statement, the Committee for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy decided on 10 May 2005 to withdraw its parliamentary motion.

Now that the motion have been withdrawn, there will be no parliamentary debate on this issue, but the statement by the Swiss Federal Council will become valid as it stands. The Swiss Federal Council and Parliament will discuss the time at which the financial incentive should become effective and the details regarding implementation during the following months.

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