

5.5.2008

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## **Minister of Finance Jyrki Katainen in the opening ceremony of the “Value from Recycling” -campaign: CHANGE IN CAR TAX HAS REDUCED CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS**

Minister of Finance Jyrki Katainen opened the “Value from Recycling” -campaign today in the Finlandia Hall. In his opening speech Katainen highlighted the guiding impact of car tax and expressed his satisfaction on the fact that the car tax reform, which was made in the beginning of this year, has induced desired effects. “The average carbon dioxide emissions from private cars registered during the first months of this year have reduced by almost 10 percent, when compared to last year” Katainen emphasized.

### **Old cars constitute a threat to environment and health**

Finland has the oldest vehicle fleet in western Europe, the average age is 10,7 years. The renewal of vehicle fleet is of primary importance in the fight for the reduction of emissions from traffic. This is supported by the fact that cars registered before the year 1992 cause 60 percent of nitrogen oxide emissions from traffic, although their share of kilometres travelled is only 10 percent. New cars also consume less fuel than older ones, due to which carbon dioxide emissions from new cars are lower than emissions from old cars.

Old cars also constitute a safety risk. According to Ulla Niku-Koskinen, the Managing Director of the Finnish Motor Insurers’ Centre, the injury risk of drivers having the newest car models is 20 percent lower than for drivers having models, which are 10 years older. Old cars are also often involved in fatal accidents, since every second fatal accident caused by a young male involves over 15-year old car.

### **Cars in poor condition are removed from traffic through the “Value from Recycling” -campaign**

The “Value from recycling” -campaign is a national project. The goal of the campaign is to promote the knowledge of consumers on the legal recycling process of cars and renew the vehicle fleet in Finland.

During the campaign period of 5.5.2008 – 30.9.2008, a voucher is delivered together with a certificate of destruction at the take-back points of Finnish Car Recycling Ltd. Furthermore, the car is deleted from register free of charge. The voucher is worth 500 euros when purchasing a new car and 200 euros when purchasing a used car. The voucher is valid in all car dealers selling new cars. Vouchers are valid until the end of the year 2008. More information on the campaign can be found in the following website: [www.kierratysarvoa.fi](http://www.kierratysarvoa.fi).

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The Finnish Car Recycling Ltd is a producer group which coordinates the take-back, treatment and recycling of scrap vehicles according to the requirements of the EU ELV Directive. The Finnish Car Recycling Ltd is owned by the Association of Automobile Importers in Finland.

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