

14.9.2006

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS HUOVINEN OPENED THE “VALUE FROM RECYCLING” -CAMPAIGN

The automobile sector invests in traffic safety and environmentally-friendly development

The “Value from recycling”-campaign starts again on 15.9.2006. The campaign is organized by Finnish Car Recycling Ltd in co-operation with Jylhä’s Metal Scrap Ltd and Stena Metalli. The campaign was solemnly opened by Ms. Susanna Huovinen, the Minister of Transport and Communications.

According to Minister Huovinen, vehicle taxation should be renewed so that the focus of taxation is shifted from purchasing a car to using a car. This would accelerate the renewal of vehicle stock and in this way we would have safer and more environmentally-friendly cars in traffic.

In her opening speech Minister Huovinen also commented that many scrap vehicles are recycled in the grey market or outside of the official system. “Then fluids, which are hazardous to the environment, are not necessarily recovered, but are left in the open. Only the most useful parts of the car are recovered. This kind of action is a crime against the environment”, Huovinen said. Finally, Huovinen made an appeal to car users that they would make a favour to the environment and bother to deliver their end-of-life vehicle to the official recycling system.

Control of driving health and new vehicle technology prevent accidents

Professor Timo Tervo, the chairman of the Finnish Traffic Medicine Association, emphasised the role of traffic medicine and especially the control of driving health in preventing accidents. According to Tervo, newer vehicle stock is necessary, as new vehicle technology can compensate for human driving errors in traffic.

With regard to new technology, Tervo especially highlighted ESP or the Electronic Stability Program, which he considers as the most important safety equipment since the adoption of seat belts. Equipment maintaining the alertness of driver is important especially in preventing the accidents of special groups, such as the elderly people.

The automobile sector hopes that the campaign would contribute to newer vehicle stock

The average age of the Finnish vehicle stock is 10,5 years and the average scrapping age is 18,3 years. The organized automobile sector, both importers and retail dealers, participate actively in the campaign, as newer vehicle stock would be a great step forward both in traffic safety and environmentally-friendly development. There are still about 700 000 gasoline-powered vehicles in the Finnish vehicle stock which do not have a catalytic converter. Although the share of vehicles not having a catalytic converter is less than 30 per cent of the vehicle stock, their share of nitrogen oxide emissions is 74 per cent.



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“Value from recycling”-campaign” motivates for the use of legal recycling system

About 100 000–140 000 vehicles/year are scrapped in Finland, but only 20 per cent of them are scrapped through the official system. The goal of the campaign is to promote the recycling of cars through the legal system which ensures that cars are recycled in an environmentally-friendly way required by the law. The campaign also aims at increasing the knowledge of consumers on car recycling and related rights and obligations.

Vehicle is accepted at an official take-back point free of charge. A certificate of destruction is given to the last owner of the vehicle, which shifts the liability for the vehicle to the actors of the recycling system. Vehicle is deleted from register free of charge and annual taxes will end automatically.

A voucher worth of up to 500 euros is given to the last owner of an end-of-life vehicle

During the campaign period of 15.9.2006–31.12.2006, the last owner of a vehicle receives a voucher when delivering a vehicle to the take-back point authorized by Finnish Car Recycling Ltd. The voucher is worth of 500 euros when purchasing a new car and 200 euros when purchasing a used car. The voucher is valid until 30.4.2007 in all stores selling new cars. The benefit to the customer is financed by vehicle importers and retail dealers.

Appendices

Speech of Mr. Jan-Martin Börman, the Chairman of the Finnish Car Recycling Ltd
Presentation of Professor Timo Tervo

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