

WP29 ROUND TABLE ON AUTOMOBILE FUEL QUALITY

BACKGROUND

With increasingly stringent vehicle exhaust emissions requirements, it is clear that market fuel quality has to follow more closely the development in engine and exhaust after-treatment technology. In the developed world this close relationship is recognized, at least to some degree, but in developing countries and transition economies this is sometimes not the case.

This need was also recognised by the participants in the Environmentally Friendly Vehicles Conference held in November 2005 in Birmingham, which concluded that:-

*“there is a need to consider global vehicle and fuel standards” and
“it was recognised that the UN/ECE World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations
(Working Party 29) was the right forum to continue working towards this goal.”*

These facts point to the need to work toward global fuel regulations, in parallel to on-going work dealing with globally harmonized vehicle regulations.

For these reasons, in 2006, OICA requested WP29 to discuss this matter with a view to developing a proposal for any necessary changes to its mandate to enable progress in this matter.

Having considered this request, WP29 decided that the best way forward would be to first convene a Round Table on the subject and requested OICA to make a proposal for the format of such an event. At the invitation of WP29, OICA presented a draft programme at the June 2007 session of GRPE, for a round table to be held at the November 2007 session of WP.29. GRPE fully endorsed the programme. A definitive programme should now be finalized at the WP.29 June 2007 session.

PROGRAMME

The programme endorsed by GRPE foresees a discussion focussed not only on the need for global improvements in fuel quality but especially on the possible mechanisms for achieving progress, and in particular on the possibility for WP29, through the 1958 or 1998 Agreements, to take action. The current mandate of WP29 does not include specification of market fuels, so some structural change would be necessary in order to make progress.

For this reason, the programme represents an attempt to make the best use of the limited time available for a round table during a WP29 session, by establishing a panel of experts which, after introductory presentations, would address the key issues directly and lead a discussion with other participants from WP29 and elsewhere.

GRPE noted that the USA, China, India and Japan, who have been invited to provide a representative on the Panel of Experts, have not yet confirmed their participation, and urged them to do so as soon as possible.

The draft programme is included in the Annex to this document.

ANNEX

WP29 Round Table on Fuel Quality

Aim: To prepare a recommendation to WP29 on how UN/ECE activity could contribute to ensuring that high quality automobile fuels are available worldwide, and thus to improved global exhaust emissions.

Note: This is not intended to be a technical discussion but a review of the legal and administrative possibilities to deal with market fuel quality – bearing in mind the limitations imposed by the Agreements administered by WP29.)

Date and place

- During the WP29 session, in Geneva – Thursday 15 November 2007, in the afternoon.
(To be finally confirmed at the June 07 WP29 session)

Draft Programme

1. **Introduction**
Mr B. Gauvin, WP29 vice-chairman and GRPE chairman - 15 minutes (14:30 - 14:45)

2. **The need for global availability of high quality fuels**
Mrs. S. M. Cishcke (OICA) - 15 minutes (14:45 - 15:00).

3. **Fuel quality improvements - the petroleum industry perspective**
Mr R. Cox (IPIECA) - 15 minutes (15:00 - 15:15)

Coffee Break (*possibly to be moved till after item 5*) (15:15 - 15:35)

4. **Introduction of Panel of Experts**:- Mr Gauvin - 5 minutes (15:35 – 15:40)
 - Auto Industry – Mrs. Susan M. Cischke (**confirmed**) – Ford Motor Company
 - Oil Industry – Mr. Rob Cox (**confirmed**) - IPIECA
 - EU Commission – Dr. Reinhardt Schulte-Brauckes (**confirmed**) – DG-ENTR
 - Japan – Mr K Wani (*tbc*)
 - US EPA – Mrs. Margo Oge (*tbc*) - EPA
 - China – Mr Li Gang (*invited*)
 - India – Mr Saroj K. Dash (*invited*)
 - IEA – (*tbd*)
 - UNEP – Mr. Rob de Jong (**confirmed**)

5. **Past experience and established plans for improved fuel quality:**
- Panel of experts (Convenor, B. Gauvin) (15:40 - 16:00)

Question to be answered:
 - What is the fuel control strategy in EU/US/Japan as well as major emerging markets such as India and China

6. **UN/ECE Activity:**
- Open round table discussion led by panel of experts (Convenor, B Gauvin) (16:00 - 17:40)

Questions to be answered:
 - a. What should be the UN/ECE approach? - Regulation? Other means?
 - b. How to address situation in less developed markets?
 - i. Signatories to 58/98 Agreements?
 - ii. Non- signatories to 58/98 Agreements?
 - c. How can an international regulation on fuel quality have a binding effect?
 - d. Is a revision of 58/98 agreement(s) needed?
 - e. One quality for all or various levels depending on the emission requirements (WWFC approach)?

7. **Conclusions and Next Steps** (17:40 - 18:00)
 - Prepare recommendation for WP29 on proposed approach

