

RESOLUTION No. 99/6 ON PHASING OUT LEAD IN PETROL

[CEMT/CM(99)25/FINAL]

The ECMT Council of Ministers of Transport, meeting in Warsaw on 18 and 19 May 1999:

AWARE

- that emissions of lead from the use of leaded petrol damage human health;
- that catalytic converters, required for emissions control on almost all new gasoline cars sold in ECMT Member countries, are irrevocably damaged if the car on which they are fitted is fuelled with leaded petrol.

RECALLING:

- Resolution No. 88/64 on the More Rapid Introduction of Unleaded Petrol in Europe;
- Resolution No. 89/66 on Transport and the Environment;
- the UN/ECE Declaration on the Phase-out of Added Lead in Petrol agreed by 29¹ ECMT Member Countries at the Fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Århus in June 1998;
- the Resolution of the OECD Council [C(96)42/FINAL] Concerning the Declaration on Risk Reduction for Lead adopted by Member countries at an Environment Policy Committee meeting at Ministerial level in February 1996;
- the UN/ECE Vienna Declaration on Transport and the Environment, 1997 (Chapter II.7);
- EU Directive 98/70/EC on the quality of petrol and diesel.

REITERATES THE RECOMMENDATION

- that where they have not already done so, Governments should encourage the more rapid and widespread introduction of unleaded fuel by measures including the use of fiscal incentives and information campaigns.

AGREES:

- that the use of leaded petrol be phased out as rapidly as possible;
- that to achieve this, all ECMT Member countries should set target dates for ending sales of leaded petrol for general use by motor vehicles.

RECOMMENDS FURTHER:

- that in no case should leaded petrol be allowed to be priced lower than unleaded petrol;
- that no increase in toxicity of fuel should be tolerated in unleaded fuel when compared to leaded petrol except, where unavoidable, during a short transitional period;
- that no ferro-organic or heavy metal additive should be substituted for lead in petrol;
- that information campaigns should include guidance on the composition and use of fuel additives required for older engines to run on unleaded petrol.

1. As of February 1999 two more countries, Poland and Ukraine, had also declared a wish to be associated with the Declaration.