

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 6 July

UK automotive report shows strong economic and environmental performance

SMMT has published its 13th Annual Sustainability Report, launched at a reception in Great Peter Street on 3 July. Speakers at the event included Adam Vaughan, Environment Editor, The Guardian, Niall Mackenzie, Head of Industrial Energy Efficiency DECC, and Professor Steve Evans, Director of Research, Institute of Manufacturing, University of Cambridge. The report highlights the significant improvements the UK automotive industry has made against key environmental performance indicators, with exports at record levels and increased investment across the industry. Specifically, forecasts suggest UK automotive is on course to attain all-time high manufacturing levels by 2015, while plants continue to achieve considerable progress in reducing their environmental impact. Speaking at the launch, SMMT Chief Executive, Paul Everitt, stated: "Our industry is at the forefront of the drive to a low carbon economy attracting investment in the research, development and manufacture of low and ultra-low carbon technologies, creating new jobs and growth opportunities throughout the supply chain and introducing attractive products that are reducing transport emissions as well. The report also revealed that the automotive industry consistently invests in young people, with the latest figures exhibiting a rise of around 12% in engineering and automotive apprenticeships. Some key findings of the report include:

- Automotive manufacturing turnover rose more than 12% to £ 55bn
- Export volumes up 14% to a record of 81.6% of total output, valued over £ 30bn
- Combined car and CV output increased 5.1%, while per vehicle energy use declined 14%
- Manufacturing CO₂ emissions drop more than 13% per vehicle produced

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/sustainability#>

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/2012/07/latest-uk-automotive-report-shows-strong-economic-and-environmental-performance/>



SMMT host Summer Parliamentary Reception

SMMT has held its Summer Parliamentary Reception in the Palace of Westminster, following on from the launch of its 13th Annual Sustainability Report. The reception was attended by a number of MPs from all major parties, key stakeholders, and representatives from across the industry. Mr Richard Burden MP, Chair of the All-Parliamentary Motor Group hosted the assembly, expressing great satisfaction with the progress of the automotive industry towards greater energy and resource efficiency. Lauding the sector's achievements in combining high productivity with consideration for people and the environment, he urged the industry to keep on moving forward. Norman Baker MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, echoed Mr Burden, stating that the report presented good news to both industry and government. Congratulating companies for successfully embracing regulative and economic challenges, he emphasized that automotive manufacturers were increasingly part of the solution and that economic growth and reduction in carbon emissions were "two sides of the same coin." Mr Baker further highlighted the responsibility of government to allay uncertainty in regulation by proving a consistent policy path and granting the automotive industry an appropriate time-frame to realise its carbon reduction objectives. He also confirmed government's continued endorsement of low and ultra-low carbon vehicles to ensure that the market kicks off in the future. Paul Everitt, Chief Executive, SMMT, concluded by commending the

constructive relationship between industry and government. Highlighting that there was a vital window of opportunity for economic growth, Mr Everitt called on the financial sector to invest in the automotive industry and the government to further collaborate with manufactures in order to take full advantage of the opportunities at hand.

(Source: SMMT)

www.smmt.co.uk



UK new car market continues to grow

Figures published by the SMMT this week show that new car registrations rose for a fourth successive month with a 3.5% increase in June to a total of 189,514 units. This figure is still 15% below the 2007 outturn prior to recession, but around 2.5% ahead of average June volumes for the previous three years. Moreover, registrations over the first half of the year increased 2.7% to 1,057,680 units. Data also shows that technological advances allowed CO₂ emissions to fall 4% to 134.1g/km in the first half of 2012.

Alternatively-fuelled car registrations posted a 47.8% rise in June, while diesel volumes also rose, pushing their market share over the first two quarters of the year up to 51.2% from 50% last year. The commercial vehicle market stabilised in June, down just 0.4% to 25,864 registrations, rolling year up 2.6% to 294,549. Truck volumes remained strong, up 14.7% at 3,577 registrations in the month of June, while van numbers decline 2.5% to 22,287 registered units. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/07/new-car-market-continues-to-rise-with-3-5-growth-in-june/>

DVLA services to be transformed

Roads Minister Mike Penning MP has announced the implementation of wide-ranging reforms to improve the operations of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing

Agency (DVLA). Following a public consultation entitled "Transforming DVLA Services", which was launched in December 2011, the DVLA published a series of documents that outline how the agency seeks to improve its performance to meet customer needs. Key to the reform is centralising the DVLA's services in Swansea and making more transactions available online, in an effort to enhance accessibility and convenience for motorists. As the structural transformation will entail the closure of the DVLA's 39 regional offices, DVLA has estimated this will save taxpayers approximately £26 million a year. The plans will also grant motorists in Northern Ireland access to the same services, extending the coverage more equitably over Great Britain. Other key changes of the transformation agenda include the digitalisation of services and more widespread implementation of front office services by intermediaries. The DVLA has also stated that it will endeavour to alleviate administrative burdens on motor dealers by centralising the printing and despatching of tax discs direct to the registered keeper at DLVA's headquarters. (Source: DVLA)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/statements/penning-20120704a>



Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Thursday 12 July

Energy & climate change questions

Commons Committees

No relevant activity

House of Lords

No relevant activity