

PRESS RELEASE

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European Commission study highlights benefits of higher ethanol fuel blends

Newly released report finds that increasing ethanol in petrol helps improve air quality and reduces oil dependency

BRUSSELS – A new report published by the European Commission highlights several benefits of higher ethanol blends in petrol, including reducing emissions of dangerous pollutants and boosting car engine performance.

The [study](#), conducted by ICF for the Commission’s Directorate-General for Climate, assessed the impact of higher levels of bio components in transport fuels. It found that increasing the amount of ethanol in petrol blends – for example from 5% to 10% or 20% – would have a positive effect on vehicle emissions and air quality and help reduce reliance on fossil petroleum products.

The Commission report found that increased ethanol blends in petrol would result in reduced emissions of hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM): for example, ethanol blends reduce emissions of HC/CO/PM by 5 to 20% compared to petrol with no ethanol. The study also found that compared to current blending levels, the use of higher ethanol blends will not result in adverse evaporative emissions impacts in petrol.

These results confirm the need for a higher level of renewable ethanol in petrol – boosting performance and efficiency of engines while delivering significant emissions savings.

The study was conducted in October 2015 but has only just been published by the Commission in summer 2017 – [more than six months after the Commission proposed phasing out crop-based biofuels after 2020](#).

“This Commission report once again confirms the many benefits ethanol brings to EU transport, in addition to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions,” said Emmanuel Desplechin, Secretary General of ePURE, the European renewable ethanol association. “Renewable ethanol, sustainably produced in Europe, already helps reduce emissions of GHG and harmful pollutants in petrol across Europe, and blends such as E10 are compatible with today’s vehicles. But with increased blends it could do even more – and help reduce Europe’s dependence on imported fossil fuel.”

“Instead of calling for a phase-out of sustainably produced biofuels like ethanol, the EU should be promoting their use,” Desplechin said.

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About ePURE

The European renewable ethanol association (ePURE) represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the European institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE represents 39 member companies, with 43 production plants in 16 EU member states, accounting for about 85% of the installed renewable ethanol capacity in Europe. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.