GREENING of TRANSPORT

The European transport sector is growing rapidly, with far-reaching implications for citizens and the environment. Transport activities are a major contributor to environmental pollution and have an important impact on climate change, accounting for more than 25% of all CO₂ emissions. Innovative solutions that could help in meeting the Kyoto goal of replacing 30% of fossil fuel usage by 2020 could also bring economic benefits. It has been estimated that traffic-related pollution costs Europe 1.7% of its GDP, approximately €160 billion per year or €360 per year for every citizen.

Under the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), the European Union is committed to reducing environmental and noise pollution, including:

- Reducing greenhouse gases through technological and socio-economic means
- Development of clean and efficient engines and power-trains including hybrid technologies
- Use of alternative fuels for transport applications, in particular hydrogen and fuel cells
- Taking account of cost-efficiency and energy-efficiency considerations
- Developing end-of-life strategies for vehicles and vessels.

The greening of air transport also includes reducing both greenhouse emissions and noise disturbance, encompassing work on engines and alternative fuels, structures and new aircraft designs, airport operations and traffic management.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/transport/issues_challenges/greening_en.cfm