



Transatlantic Workshop on Electric Vehicles and Grid Connectivity

Session A: Vision and Policy to Support Electromobility

Main messages

The Vision for Electromobility is still under development. However, there is clear agreement that electric vehicles are needed. In the United States, road transport is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, so we have to raise the efficiency of cars that run on oil (in the short run) and boost the use of non-petroleum fuels – including EVs (in the medium and long run). In the EU, to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050, we will have to decarbonize transport. Biofuels may play a role, but EVs will be an essential part of the picture for cars and light trucks.

There is an issue as to the proper balance between our desire to push EVs into the market, on the one hand, and our desire to maintain neutrality among the many market players. A possible compromise may be to have focused, time-limited incentives to pump start the initial market, then back off.

Key documents and analyses are in preparation. In 2011, the EU will issue a White Paper on the Future of Transport. In 2010, there will be a Policy Paper on Clean Transport Systems. The EU's Alternative Fuels Expert Group has been developing road maps for moving away from oil. Industry representatives, scientists and policymakers all believe that transport can be decarbonized by 2050. We might envision a small seminar to present and discuss these documents. We might also discuss what has worked and not worked so far for accelerating the introduction of electric vehicles into the marketplace.