



Press Release n°297

Transports / Climate change

To choose the most eco-friendly transport option: two internet tools launched by UIC at the European Environment Agency

(Paris / Copenhagen, 24 June 2008). UIC and the European Environment Agency (EEA) launch today the EcoPassenger (www.ecopassenger.org) and EcoTransIT (new version) (www.ecotransit.org) internet tools to calculate and compare the energy consumption and emissions of different transport modes in Europe. The launch event was jointly organised with CER and UNIFE. UIC has developed EcoPassenger and EcoTransIT together with its members, Ifeu (the German Institute for Environment and Energy), Hacon and IVEmBH (routing systems and software).

The launch event took place in the EEA Headquarters in Copenhagen on June 24th. The launch was followed by a debate between transport modes, experts and policy makers on how to reducing the gap between transport growth and environmental needs in Europe and get to modal balance. A main issue for the debate was pricing and how to get the prices right as the external costs of transport are not yet included in the prices used in the transport market. Representatives of EU Commission, national authorities, aviation, road, shipping and rail sectors and environmental experts were invited to share their visions and thoughts for a better common future.

EcoTransIT compares energy consumption, CO₂-emissions and exhaust atmospheric emissions for planes, ships, trucks and trains for freight transport in Europe. EcoPassenger compares energy consumption, CO₂-emissions and exhaust atmospheric emissions of plane, cars and trains for passenger transport in Europe. The tools are fed with detailed data from the UIC Energy & CO₂-emissions data base. EcoTransIT and EcoPassenger are using the best available data for car and plane.

The tools challenge existing CO₂-emissions calculations as they take a life cycle approach to the energy consumption: They do not only calculate the energy or the fuel it takes to run the train, car or the plane. The calculations include the emissions from the cumulative energy consumption including the energy used to produce the electricity or the fuel, in a "well to wheel"-perspective.

With the EcoPassenger and EcoTransIT methodology UIC would like to help the transport users in increasing the awareness about the consequences of the choices they make in their everyday life and to giving support to decision makers on how to facilitate sustainable choices for business and personal trips and the supply chain. Finally, with the well to wheel methodology UIC would also like to fuel the debate on how to calculate the carbon footprints.

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