

Mr. Andris Piebalgs
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
Brussels 1049

27th June 2005

Dear Mr. Piebalgs,

Re: Liquid Petroleum Gas

I am writing to bring to your attention the urgent need for action on the promotion of the use of Liquid Petroleum Gas - also called Autogas - as way to achieve clean and silent combustion.

In the U.K., LPG as a motor fuel has declined in the last few years, one of the reasons for this being that the switch to LPG is currently dictated solely by the cost-effectiveness of the switch to the user of the vehicle. As converting a car to use LPG is very costly (reportedly up to £1600), incentives are needed. 40% to 70% grants were available through the Energy Saving Trust (EST) PowerShift Scheme. Following a recent consultation, the grant programmes have been revised to move to a technology neutral approach, and adjusted to comply with State Aid rules. However the transition to new programmes means that the PowerShift and CleanUp grant programmes have closed.

Overall, these programmes have been responsible for saving over 130,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 14,500 tonnes of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and 2,217 tonnes of particulate matter (PM₁₀). As such, they have made an important contribution to tackling climate change and improving air quality. In light of the clear urgent need to make progress on these issues, I am sure you will appreciate the importance of launching the new grant programmes as soon as possible.

In order to ensure this, EST has worked quite closely with the Department for transport (DfT) to ensure that the process of notification of the new programmes to the Commission was completed as quickly and smoothly as possible. This task has been completed, and EST now has to wait until the DfT communicates that the requisite clearance from the Commission has been obtained.

As this process has now arrived at its final stage where it is in the hands of the European Commission, and noting the contribution that these programmes can make to the Commission's stated objectives of improving air quality and tackling global warming, I would urge you to deal with this issue as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Lucas'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Caroline Lucas
Green Party MEP for South East England