5.10 The EESC also believes that the subject of CO₂ emissions from cars and light duty vehicles should be assessed comprehensively, taking into account the entire life cycle of vehicles, from production processes to use and disposal. In the light of the above, the EESC would also stress the need to coordinate and secure coherence between legislative and regulatory initiatives relating to the motor vehicle industry with an impact on CO₂ emissions so as to preclude contradictions causing delays in their implementation.

5.11 The EESC believes that future research framework programmes must give priority as a matter of urgency to projects aimed at finding technically feasible and economically sustainable ways of reducing global CO₂ emissions (not only in relation to transport), taking into account the real impact of the entire life cycles of various sources of emissions. The EESC is convinced that research projects should work across a broad spectrum with a view to identifying short-, medium- and long-term solutions with affordability — for both manufacturers and final customers — as a constant objective, in order to facilitate the renewal of the vehicle fleet in the interests of sustainable mobility.

5.12 Lastly, the EESC believes that the Member States should develop activities in a wider range of areas than in the past (roads, intelligent traffic lights, etc.), not least by buying environmentally-sound vehicles for their own public transport fleets and committing themselves to both building infrastructure networks that can give access to the distribution of fuels of a lower environmental impact, such as natural gas, and facilitating the purchase of vehicles using natural gas or LPG.


The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the ‘Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/54/EC as regards the application of certain provisions to Estonia’

(2008/C 44/12)

On 17 September 2007 the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Articles 47(2), 55 and 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

Since the Committee unreservedly endorses the proposal and feels that it requires no comment on its part, it decided, at its 439th plenary session of 24 and 25 October 2007 (meeting of 24 October 2007) by 150 votes to 2 and 8 abstentions, to issue an opinion endorsing the proposed text.


The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS