

LeasePlan Autumn 2008 Newsletter

Editorial



From the new models at the Paris Car Show to discussions on CO₂ emissions, the automobile sector is going strong these days. On domestic level, the governmental measures announced by the Prime Minister on 22nd May this year are close to implementation. I want to mention the EUR 750.- environmental bonus for the purchase of a "green" car, to which only private car

owners were entitled so far and which will now also be accessible to company cars as from 2009 on. On the other hand, the road tax as applied to all company cars will no longer be deductible by the companies in their respective tax declarations. These measures are almost certain to be implemented, according to our meetings with the delegates from the Ministry. Today, our major concern will consist in avoiding the same administrative chaos as we experienced 2 years ago when the CO₂ tax came into life. We will keep you informed about future proceedings in relation to these measures.

It is about time to think of a tyre change. Summer tyres, so efficient on dry and wet grounds, lose their adherence properties as soon as the temperature sinks below 7 degrees C. Winter tyres, with an increased number of rubber blades and a higher content of natural rubber in their compound, do have a better adherence on the road. This allows them to keep their elasticity properties even at lowest temperatures. It is also important to keep an eye on tyre pressure in the interest of road safety.

Tyres running with too little pressure generate additional fuel consumption and premature tyre wear.

I would not like to end this editorial without recalling again the exceptional performance and the commitment of one of our members, **Isabelle Prévôt**, Business Development & Marketing Manager, who has sadly passed away after a long and ruthless disease. Her decease has affected LeasePlan Luxembourg and the whole group with deep sorrow and consternation.

Isabelle was a strong personality and her charisma went beyond the borders of LeasePlan Luxembourg. She was gifted with talent and enthusiasm, her commitment and positive thinking were transcending at LeasePlan for 17 years. This is how we will remember her and carry her in our hearts. On behalf of all the members of LeasePlan I want to address our Isabelle this last farewell and express our comfort and solidarity to her husband and their children.

A page has been turned with her departure. But I know that her wish would always be to continue our dialogue with you, providing you with info on market tendencies and LeasePlan projects. And so we do.

Enjoy reading!

Bob Walté

Win a navigation system!

In which country did LeasePlan launch its latest representation?



The first three correct answers to the above question will be awarded a navigation system Tom Tom One Europe v.4. by Autocenter Goedert (1st price), a fuel voucher by Aral for 100.- EUR (2nd price) and a full car wash (interior, exterior and pick-up service) at Car Clean Services (3rd price).

Please send us your answer via [the online form](#) before the 27th October, 05.00 p.m.

You think you know everything on cars?

Then answer this question:

When should you use winter tyres?

- in the rain
- on icy surfaces
- in sunny weather
- in the snow

..... You will find the answer on the last page of this Newsletter.



Fleet news

The 750.- Euro bonus for “green” cars now also for company cars

In December 2007, the Ministry of Environment had decided to promote the purchase of low CO² emission vehicles through a bonus of 750.- Euros. As from 1st January 2009 on, this bonus, so far only destined to private car owners only, will also apply to company cars.

As a reminder, this bonus only concerns cars with CO² emissions:

- Inferior or equal to **120 g de CO²/km** (in addition for diesel cars, particle emissions may not be higher than 5mg/km)
- inferior or equal to **160 g de CO²/km** CO₂ for vehicles with minimum 6 seats, provided the vehicle owner himself is a member of a minimum six-person household
- inferior or equal to **160 g de CO²/km** for cars running on natural gas or hybrid cars

On the other hand, the circulation tax on company cars may no longer be deducted from the companies' tax declarations, including cars qualifying for the 750.- EUR bonus.

LeasePlan will keep you informed on the required procedures to obtain this bonus under our website www.leaseplan.lu.

You will find other fleet info data in the section “[news](#)” of our website.



Going green

Euro MPs and biofuels: objective questioned by heavy criticism

In order to reduce dependence from crude oil imports and to fight global planet warming, the EU leaders had agreed on an increase of the share of biofuels in road transportation from today's 2% to 10%. The industrial Commission of the EU Parliament had approved this target by defining a restrictive norm: they want to have at least 40% of these renewable energies to be produced on the basis of hydrogen, electricity or second generation, non plant-originated, biofuels.

The reason for this is that the European Environment Agency EEA is increasingly concerned by fear that a production increase of today's common biofuels - mainly based on the processing of plants and raw materials - will generate a massive deforestation and food penury.

The EU MPs might have found a compromise: they adopted a report that supports their objective and at the same time enlarges the use of classic biofuels to the field of renewable energies in general. This means that hydrogen or electricity may now also be accounted for in this target. As a consequence, the MPs propose that minimum 40% of these renewable energies be produced from hydrogen, electricity or second generation biofuel resources.

In addition, they want that only biofuels reducing CO² emissions by 45% in comparison with traditional fossil fuels are accounted for in this target. And as from January 2015 on, this level (sustainable development criterion) must reach a minimum of 60%. The MPs have also fixed another intermediate target, i.e. a 5% share of renewable energies in road transportation by 2015.

The Parliament will have to deal with this project in its October session, while the member States will discuss it in the coming months. The debates will be much alive under the French Presidency, eager to conclude this file in time.

You will find more information on alternative energies in the “[GreenPlan](#)” section of our website.

Automobile world

Paris Car Show from 4 to 19 October 2008

The season highlight "Mondial de l'Automobile" open its doors for the public from 4 to 19 October at the Porte de Versailles in Paris. Concept cars, hybrid cars, biofuels, electric cars, a very large and diversified range of vehicles are on display, including those we will adopt in the future for reasons of environmental compliance.

The French car makers will proudly introduce their latest creations: the new Mégane series and the Laguna Coupé by **Renault** for instance. **Peugeot** might well show its 3008, a crossover featuring the properties of a compact monospace, a four by four and a Sports Utility vehicle and that should be a serious challenger to Nissan's Qashqai. **Citroen** will present the new small monospace C3 Picasso.



Cars from Germany will not fail to impress the public, like with the new **Audi** Q5 and its revolutionary 3D GPS and MMI interface as discovered at the Beijing Show a few months ago. The A5 Convertible and a restyled A6 are expected to show up as well.

BMW brings the new 3 and 7 series, including a new GPS, while **Mercedes** presents its leisure break basing on the coming new E-class. The sixth **Volkswagen** Golf generation will be in Paris, as well as the **Opel** Insignia in Sport Tourer version.

Ford's Ka comes in a semi-hybrid configuration. From Italy, we will probably see the rebirth of the **Lancia Fulvia** and the **Alfa Romeo MiTo** is also expected.



On the environment front, good news comes from Honda with a new hybrid car likely to promote this kind of technology to a broader public through an attractive price. From the US comes the Chevrolet Cruze, also a hybrid car. Finally, Bolloré Pininfarina introduces an electric city car.

More info on the official website:

www.mondial-automobile.com

Good to know

Tyre replacement: for safe mobility, without constraints

The tyre is a fundamental component of your security while driving; it is the only element putting your car in contact with the ground. Much more than just a tyre for the snow, the winter tyre is suitable to drive in any conditions, as soon as autumn has started.

In wet weather, in the snow but above all in low temperatures, the winter tyre gives much better adhesion to the road than a summer tyre.

In order to avoid you wasting your time and also to avoid the rush to the tyre centres as soon as the first snowflakes have appeared, we advise you to contact one of the tyre centres mentioned in the table below.

Free pick up in October

Some of them offer a free pick-up service of your vehicle from and to your company: you just need to contact them 24 h in advance and to follow their indications.



We want to draw your attention to the fact that from 1st April 2008 on, a sticker with the top speed indication of your winter tyres must be fixed inside the car, either on the dashboard or on the steering wheel. The reason for this is that in most cases the maximum speed indication of a winter tyre (featured on the tyre's shoulder) is inferior to the maximum speed indication of your summer tyre (featured on the tyre's shoulder).

So don't hesitate to ask for this sticker at your tyre service shop. This sticker is required by law, the fine in case of non-respect is EUR 49.-

	Locality	Phone	Pick up october	Pick up during the year
Autocenter Goedert (for all center) http://www.goedert.lu/services_pickup.php	Hollerich	488766	Free	Free
	Belle Etoile	310213		
	Foetz	574057		
	Bourmicht	263166		
	Bereldange	263372		
Delta Pneus http://www.points.lu/homeservice/	Helfent	455750	Free	Free
Pneus Reuter http://www.points.lu/homeservice/	Bertrange	312170	Free	Free
Pneus Mreches http://www.pneusmreches.lu/formu.html	Ingeldorf	802344	Free	Not planned
	Luxembourg	2689111		
	Windhof	397788		
Rodighiero Pneus	Luxembourg	484812	Free	Not planned
	Foetz	557331		
	Lamadelaide	507663		
Schäfer Pneuservice http://www.schaefer-pneuservice.lu	Munsbach	263424	Free around Kirchberg, airport and Sandweiler, Luxembourg City excluded	Free around Kirchberg, airport and Sandweiler, Luxembourg City excluded
Centrale Pneus Strasser	Bertrange	450170	/	/
Graas Pneus http://www.graas.lu	Leudelange	481420	/	/
	Sanem	590147		
Pneus Service Schumann http://www.pss.lu	Strassen	452453	/	/

With LeasePlan and its partners, you get easy access to additional safety and mobility through winter tyres.
You will find more advice for better driving in the "[Driver](#)" section of our website.



You think you know everything on cars?

Answer: **When shall I use winter tyres?**

A winter tyre comes to full efficiency **under temperatures below 7 degrees C, under any weather conditions**. That's why you should adopt a proactive safety attitude, anticipate and adapt your tyres to the outside temperatures.