Limit the speed on the roads - Speed up Climate Protection

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Dorothee Saar, Head of Transport and Air Quality Department
Who is Deutsche Umwelthilfe?

- NGO for environmental and consumer protection
- Founded in 1975
- About 90 staff members
- Topics: nature conservation, energy transition, circular economy, transport and air quality
- Entitled to take legal action with regard to consumer rights and environment
- Long engagement with the topic: Joint press work with VCD and Police Director from German Police University Münster demanding speed limit on German highways in 2007
Transport and Climate Policy

- CO2 emission from the transport sector in 2018 are on the same level as in 1990
- Number of vehicles and transport rates are rising both for passenger cars and heavy duty
- The gap between manufacturer data and real world fuel consumption is 39% in average, for company cars even 42% (ICCT)
- Goal of electrification for passenger cars fueled with renewable energy requires light and efficient vehicles – which are „in danger“ on roads that allow fast driving for heavy and highly motorized vehicles
- Inner urban transport transition requires change of mode to cycling and walking which requires more space and safety on urban roads
What are the obligations for transport?

- The Paris agreement requires full decarbonisation of the sector by 2050
- In order to stay well below 2 degree, this must even happen earlier: NGOs call for carbon free transport by 2035
- EU Effort Sharing Decision requires CO2 mitigation for the non-ETS-sectors, that means 38 % CO2 reduction by 2030 (to 2005) for the transport sector, sanctioned if failed up to 60 billion Euros acummulated (Agora Verkehrswende 2017)
- National Climate Action Plan has a sector specific reduction goal: minus 42-40% by 2030 (to 1990)
- This means 40% in 11 years. In the past 28 years, we did achieve ZERO reduction
- „Climate Cabinet“ to present concrete proposals in autumn this year
Sectoral plans leave a gap

- Focus on intensive use of biofuels and e-fuels – critizised by Federal Environmental Agency:
  - Too optimistic in numbers
  - Not considering demands from other sectors
  - Second generation biofuel not available for land transport before 2030

- Announced so far:
  - Change of road traffic regulations to improve (urban) cycling (recently published and partly obtaining approval from cyclists)
  - Reduction of VAT for long distance rail trip (only few raise in passenger number expected, mostly relevant for today’s train user)
  - Extension of buyer’s premium for e-cars – not too successful in the past, benefits wealthy customers to buy second or third car
  - Digitilazation, autonomous driving: Effect is unclear
  - CO2 prizing – unclear in detail and effect

- Even with optimistic accounting gap of 16-26 million tons CO2eq
- Additional instruments with short term effect are needed!
Why a speed limit now?

- „The introduction of a general speed limit is the litmus test for the credibility of German climate policy“ (Jürgen Resch, CEO Deutsche Umwelthilfe, 21.06.2019)
- A general speed limit of 120 km/h on highways and 80 km/h on rural roads could save up to 5 million tons of CO2 and is thus the most effective single measure
- Germany the last EU and industrialized country without general speed limit...
A Broad Coalition

- Several reasons speak in favor of a speed limit
  - Up to 5 m tons of CO2 direct reduction
  - Change of construction of cars with less horse power and less weight (indirect CO2-reduction)
  - Less costs for fuel
  - Less congestion – less need for more roads
  - Less noise
  - Not least: Road safety – you are much more expert on this field as we are 😊
What do we do?

- Initiated a broad coalition to show various aspects and broad support
- Joint demand even with slightly different numbers (130/120)
- Press work – latest in June addressing the Climate Cabinet that is supposed to present a proposal for the „Climate Law“ in September
- Petition: Win supporters [https://www.change.org/p/tempolimit-jetzt](https://www.change.org/p/tempolimit-jetzt) (almost 60,000 signatures by now, please support us and sign as well)
- Website and background paper with broad information [https://www.duh.de/tempolimit/](https://www.duh.de/tempolimit/)
- More to follow…
How can we join forces?

- Let’s stay in touch!
- Let us share information on latest findings, successes, debates, opportunities...
- Become a member of our coalition
- Join us in asking for more studies and facts
- Use the momentum of climate law announced for autumn 2019 and the growing demand for sustainable transport and livable cities by promoting a general speed limits as a simple, feasible and effective tool
Thank you!

saar@duh.de