



## PRESS RELEASE

September 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

### MOTORCYCLING, AN ALTERNATIVE TO INCREASING CONGESTION PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

***On September 5<sup>th</sup>, in Strasbourg, FEMA will remind Members of the European Parliament that motorcycling can provide solutions for Europe mobility challenges.***

European cities increasingly face problems caused by transport and traffic. Reducing congestion and pollution while at the same time increasing mobility has become a common challenge to all major cities in Europe.

Motorcycling offers major advantages to the transport mix. It is an inexpensive, environmentally friendly and an effective mean of transport, especially in congested urban areas:

- Motorcycles occupy far less space on the road and do not contribute to traffic congestion. Motorcycling substantially increases vehicle capacity on congested urban roads;
- Motorcycles easily double-up in a lane or filter through congested areas. They contribute to alleviate gridlocks on high volume roads;
- In congested areas, motorcycles take approximately 16 to 48 % less time to cover the same urban trip as a car;
- Average motorcycles consume between 55% and 81% less fuel than cars on the same journey and require fewer resources to manufacture (1/7th)<sup>1</sup>.
- Three or more motorcycles can park in the same space normally used by a car.
- Motorcycles cause a fraction of the damage to roads compared to other motorised transport, and thus are responsible for only a tiny percentage of the maintenance costs.

Motorcycles also provide social integration by supplementing private and public transport, ensuring independence and mobility for all.

Therefore, FEMA strongly believes that the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament should make sure that the Green Paper on *Urban Transport* – which will be presented in autumn - fully takes motorcyclists and their needs into accounts. It would be a mistake if urban transport policies focused only on public transport or non motorized vehicles, neglecting other valuable alternatives to cars such as powered two wheelers. FEMA believes that the adoption of the Green Paper is an opportunity to integrate PTW's and recognize their role in urban centres. FEMA will defend its views to Members of the European Parliament at its annual *MEP Ride* next Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

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#### Notes to editor:

- The MEP Ride will take place in Strasbourg on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. The ride will start at 7:00pm. <http://www.mep-ride.eu>
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<sup>1</sup> European Commission Motor Vehicles Emissions Group