



FIVA

We Protect

We Preserve

We Promote

Position paper:

Historic Vehicles and Global Climate Change

November 2021

The Importance of the Past:

Vehicles powered by internal combustion engines have had a major effect on the world for more than 100 years. They contributed massively to the shape and appearance of our cities, towns and the countryside. They also offered freedom to many people, allowing them to travel further individually, both in their own country and across borders. This greatly benefited both economic and social life.

To understand how we have to proceed in the future we need to understand the past. Historic Vehicles enable us to understand the world our parents and grandparents inhabited and are a very important part of our mobile heritage. The importance of mobile heritage is now recognised by those, including particularly UNESCO, who protect our history in general as forming an integral part of the whole.

It is for this reason that FIVA considers that preservation of Historic Vehicles remains vital and will actively work to ensure that preservation continues to be carried out responsibly.

Climate Change and Air Quality:

The 2021 Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has demonstrated conclusively that the consequences of what mostly appeared to be a societal benefit has also had a significant impact on increasing global warming. Mainly because the overall number of vehicles increased exponentially in the last half century, road transport currently accounts for around a sixth^a of total greenhouse gas emissions.

It also seems evident that a large proportion of all new vehicles will be powered by electrical or other non-emitting sources of energy in order to decrease this global warming. Vehicles with internal combustion engines as we know them will therefore decrease on our roads and become rare in the future.

Responsible Preservation

Historic Vehicles were not built to meet current standards; and indeed, for a long time, the standards were not defined and in many cases not even thought of when the vehicles were built. But the impact of Historic Vehicles on the environment is marginal due to their small numbers. Even more importantly, they involve a very small annual mileage - journeys on public roads are occasional and are mostly outside urban areas and outside peak hours and often historic vehicle use is only for events and displays. . Many Historic Vehicles use less than a tank of fuel every year.

FIVA always recommends that Historic Vehicles should be kept in a well-maintained state in order to work as efficiently as possible. These recommendations are detailed in the "FIVA Guide for Responsible Use of Historic Vehicles on Today's Roads" which provides detailed guidance for the good maintenance and safe use of historic vehicles.

While up-to-date worldwide figures do not exist to assess the total numbers and usage of Historic Vehicles and their socio-economic impact, FIVA is working to establish the actual figures. But it can be stated with confidence that their use has a marginal effect on total current vehicle emissions.

It is FIVA's clear goal that Historic Vehicles shall continue to be able to be shown to current and future generations while in use on the roads and FIVA undertakes to continue tirelessly to promote the most sustainable use of Historic Vehicles around the world.

This includes promotion of developments such as alternative fuels where these are made in such a way that they can be used on Historic Vehicles.

^a IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on climate Changes for 2021