Don't Give up Now!

Dear Reader,

Sometimes it is in fact speech that is golden. Over the past few years you may have repeatedly had the feeling that dogmatic views were taking the place of ordinary common sense and that discussions were no longer technical in nature, but instead had taken on an almost religious fervor. Now a new approach gradually seems to be emerging. Even the bodies responsible for political policy making have realized that we will need more than one solution if we are to achieve the Paris climate goals for 2030, let alone those for 2050. No one is denying that electric vehicles are important, but they are just one of a whole raft of measures that will be required to meet the EU's targets.

We are now speaking openly about promoting the use of hydrogen as a fuel. Processing it to produce synthetic fuels is no longer being regarded as a waste of energy. The tank-to-wheel analysis has finally been revealed as short-sighted and systemic approaches based on a life cycle analysis are becoming more widely used. This is precisely the moment when we must keep the discussion going and set aside the restraint that has predominated since the diesel scandal.

Our spring conferences "The Powertrain of Tomorrow" and the "International Engine Congress" have once again indicated the direction we should be taking. Both events highlighted potential methods of developing alternative forms of energy storage and the opportunities that they offer and both were platforms for heated debate. It is exactly this sort of emotionally charged discussion that is needed, because it is the only way that we will make our views known to the right people and ultimately the wider public. Polite restraint is no longer the best approach. We need to make ourselves heard. Speech is golden.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of MTZ.

Marc Ziegler
Deputy Editor in Chief

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