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RHA 2006 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS KEY ISSUES AFFECTING ROAD HAULIERS



Sponsored by Abbey Fuelcards, the Road Hauliers Association Spring Conference was held over three days in Malta and attended by 300 delegates. Conference discussed transport issues covering fuel costs, road congestion, toll charges, European Working Directives and ways of increasing efficiency in operation, under the guidance of several leading figures from the transport industry.

Of particular concern was the present level of UK taxation on fuel – the highest in the European Union (EU). Conference considered that the UK's heavy taxation resulted in foreign hauliers having an unfair competitive advantage over UK



hauliers, as it allowed them to fill with lower cost fuel abroad and drive all over the UK without refuelling and with almost no charges imposed for road usage.



The basic cost of UK fuel at some 23.2p / litre was noted as similar to other countries within the EU. It was this element of the cost Conference considered offered hauliers the most immediate hope of reducing their outlay by increasing their efficiency and method of purchase.

Speaker Professor David Begg – Director of the Centre for Transport Policy at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen argued that variable road charges applied to all vehicles would spread the road usage period such that congestion would reduce. Delegates felt that the lack of road building was not helping the current road congestion.



David Harvey, Group Manager, Operational Policy Division of the Safety Standards and Research Directorate, countered that the government was concentrating its effort into those areas where congestion was at its worst, namely junctions, thus making the best use of the existing road network.

Steve Clarke, Customer Services and Marketing Manager and Richard Stocker, Sales Executive, both from Abbey Fuelcards sought to answer the questions of



reducing outlay on the basic fuel cost and ways of increasing in-house efficiency by the use of one or more of the range of Fuelcards now available from the Abbey Group.

In particular they noted:

- Diesel Direct for trunk road/urban operations, offering fixed price diesel at over 1000 HGV friendly sites in the UK
- euroShell for motorway operations, offering fixed price diesel at over 450 HGV friendly Shell network sites throughout the UK.
- fastfuel for hauliers operating fleets of mixed petrol and diesel vehicles, offering over 1400 Texaco sites throughout the UK. Noted as the only network offering fixed rate petrol.

With all the fuelcards offering tailored reporting, fixed price fuel for a seven-day period advised weekly by fax, email or text and instant card-stop Steve Clarke noted that Abbey Fuelcards was the Hauliers Friend. He concluded the presentation by reminding delegates of the three major advantages of using Abbey Fuelcards – Service, Savings and Security.

Abbey Fuelcards Ltd may be contacted on 01235 775218 or email:

info@abbey-group.co.uk . Or visit the website: <http://www.discountdiesel.co.uk>