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In a nutshell: Transport and its environmental impact

Federal Environment Agency issues concise collection of data

The free *Daten zum Verkehr [Transport Data]* brochure published by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) provides an overview of current developments on roads, railroads, and in the aviation and shipping sectors. Its focus is on the impact on soil, air and water of our present system of passenger and freight traffic. Tables, charts and case studies provide clear illustration of existing inter-relationships. It is clear to UBA President Jochen Flasbarth that "the transport sector poses a real challenge to environmental protection on both a national and international scale. Sustainable design of the transport system will require many individual initiatives at political and public level, which can only occur if based on solid information. Our brochure will provide this information".

Facts and figures on noise and pollutants are the main focus of the new brochure as more than half the German population takes issue with road traffic noise. About one third suffers from aviation noise, more than one fifth from rail transport noise. One thing is sure about pollutants: passenger and commercial vehicles nowadays emit almost no sulfur dioxide and far less nitrogen oxides. However, they produce other substances that can impact our health, for example particulate matter. The level of CO₂ emissions caused by the various means of transport is also cause for concern, as they account for roughly 20 percent of total CO₂ emissions, of which the lion's share is accounted for by passenger and commercial vehicles. The *Daten zum Verkehr* publication also makes a case for regionally grown apples being considerably more ecological than the imported variety. In terms of transport the long distances involved with the import of fruits from Argentina or New Zealand incurs far higher energy costs and emissions than local apples. Other key data includes: Transport capacity of passenger air traffic in 2002-2006 increased by about 35 percent- and road traffic in 2005 incurred approx. 60 million euros in costs in excess of what state revenues in this area were.

The *Daten zum Verkehr* brochure can be ordered from the Federal Environment Agency, c/o GVP, PF 33 03 61, 53183 Bonn or by sending an e-mail request to uba@broschuerenversand.de.

You can access *Daten zum Verkehr* online at: http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien-e/mysql_medien.php?anfrage=Kennummer&Suchwort=3880.

Dessau-Roßlau, 25 March 2010