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Failure of all-electric driving mode in PHEV vehicles

Dear Mr Tavares,

As an environmental NGO based in Germany, we are highly engaged to reduce the emission of exhaust gases and CO2 from passenger cars. Part of our work are exhaust gas measurements on the road from various vehicle models, among them plug in hybrids.

In this context, we are increasingly receiving enquiries and requests for help from vehicle operators, some of whom are experiencing considerable problems with the electric mode on vehicles with plug-in hybrid technology originating from the Stellantis Group. In many cases, operation in pure electric mode is not possible at all, especially with models from Opel and Peugeot, despite a charged battery. According to reports, the following message appears on the vehicle's display: "Electric mode not possible - automatic mode". We also receive reports of the combustion engine running even though the vehicle has been set to electric-only mode. This behavior is not known to us from PHEVs from other manufacturers.

We therefore ask you to answer the following questions:

1. What exactly is the reason why your group's PHEV models in general and the Opel Grandland, Peugeot 2008 and Peugeot 5008 in particular regularly refuse to run in pure electric mode despite a charged battery?

2. Is it true that these problems can only be remedied by regular driving of at least 100 kilometers in pure combustion mode in sport mode, as communicated by contract workshops? If so, what is the cause?
3. The answers we have received from authorized workshops and PSA say that the engine should be protected and the particle filter regenerated, but they remain vague. How does this fit with the fact that the problem also affects vehicles that run exclusively electric before the problem occurs?
4. Why is this serious restriction of operation not mentioned in the operating instructions?
5. How can affected consumers with such a vehicle, especially if they bought it for short city trips, reduce their exhaust emissions to zero as you advertise?
6. Why are consumers not informed of this fact, of which you are obviously aware, before they make a purchase?

In the interest of affected consumers and with regard to the unnecessary emissions of many PHEV vehicles from your production, we request an answer with a deadline of August 9, 2022.

With kind regards,



Jürgen Resch
CEO