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HMRC appeal on 5% ruling for EV public charging: Europcar response

Tom Middleditch, Head of B2B Marketing and Sustainability spokesperson, Europcar Mobility Group UK said:

"HMRC's decision to appeal the First-Tier Tribunal's ruling on public EV charging VAT is yet another mixed message from government on net zero. It seems wholly unfair that motorists who do not have access to home charging have to pay 20% VAT – our latest research shows that 43% of consumers are deterred from switching to electric because of lack of confidence in charging infrastructure and cost of charging will be part of that concern.

"This issue is particularly acute in the vehicle rental sector. Unlike private motorists and businesses that have made a long-term commitment to electric vehicle ownership, which probably means they can charge overnight at home - benefiting from the 5% domestic VAT rate - renters are almost entirely reliant on the public charging network. They are penalised simply because of how they travel. The four-fold VAT disparity between home and public charging is not just unfair; it is a structural barrier to EV adoption .

"At Europcar, we have made substantial investment in EV fleet, electrification of our branch network, plus resources and tools for motorists taking their first steps into electric motoring precisely because we believe in accelerating the transition to cleaner transport. We want to help our customers choose electric with confidence. But that confidence is undermined when the cost of public charging remains so disproportionately high.

The government cannot credibly champion electrification while simultaneously fighting in court to maintain a tax regime that makes public charging more expensive than at home. We urge HMRC to reconsider its appeal and instead work with industry to create a level playing field that gives every driver - including those who rent - a fair chance to go electric."

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Notes to Editors

About Europcar Mobility Group

Europcar Mobility Group is a global mobility player, with 75 years of mobility services expertise and a leading position in Europe.

"We help to change the way you move" is what we stand for and brings us together. More than ever, we're committed to delivering simple, seamless, innovative solutions that make mobility easy, enjoyable and increasingly eco-friendly.

To do this, we offer to individuals and businesses a wide range of car and van rental services, be it for a few hours, a few days, a week, a month or more, on-demand or on subscription, relying on a fleet of more than 280.000 vehicles, equipped with the latest engines including an increasing share of electric vehicles.

Our brands address differentiated needs, use cases and expectations: Europcar® - a global leader of car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - a frontrunner at providing low-cost car rental services in Europe, Fox-Rent-A-Car®, one of the main players in the car rental market in the US, with a "value for money" positioning, and Euromobil®, a German car rental player. The Group also operates the "myEuropcar" platform for vehicle subscription.

Customers' satisfaction is at the heart of the Group's ambition and that of our more than 9,000 employees, everywhere we deliver our mobility solutions, thanks to a strong network in over 130 countries (including 15 wholly owned subsidiaries completed by franchisees and alliance partners).

More info: www.europcar-mobility-group.com