

## Press Release

### European leisure vehicle sales on the rise

Positive sales results for new motor caravans and caravans

Frankfurt, 19 May 2015

**During the first four months of this year, the European leisure vehicle sector exhibited solid sales growth, by virtue of 57,904 newly registered leisure vehicles – a 6.3 percent increase over the same period last year. This sales spurt clearly indicates that the European leisure vehicle industry has turned the corner and is now on the upswing.**

The excellent performance of the European leisure vehicle sector this year is evidenced by the growth in sales of new motor caravans and caravans between January and April. This sales growth has mainly been driven by robust sales in the strongest markets, namely the UK, Germany, and France. In the UK, sales of new leisure vehicles compared to the same period last year grew by 8.2 percent to 10,875 units, in Germany by 7 percent to 18,574 units, and in France by 3.2 percent to 10,188 units. Of the 16 national markets whose January through April 2015 sales figures were analyzed by the European Caravan Federation (ECF), 14 markets registered sales growth for the period, compared to the same period last year. These figures can be regarded as a harbinger of further growth to come in the European leisure vehicle sector.

During the first four months of this year, sales in the European motor caravan sector grew by a robust 8 percent, to 32,597 motor caravans, while caravan sales likewise exhibited healthy growth amounting to 4.2 percent, for a total of 25,307 caravans.

The strongest growth in the motor caravan sector for January through April was registered in the UK, where sales grew by an extraordinary 24.1 percent (3,946 new motor caravans). France and Germany, which are key national markets in the European leisure vehicle sector, also registered sales growth. In France, new motor caravan sales rose by 6.3 percent to 7,356 units, and in Germany by 5.3 percent to 11,563 units.

Caravan sales in Germany for the first four months of this year rose by 10 percent to 7,011 units compared to the same period last year, and thus represented the largest number of new caravan sales in the European leisure vehicle sector. Sales in the Netherlands – traditionally a market where caravan sales are strong and where sales have declined steeply in recent years – showed signs of recovery during the first four months of this year with sales amounting to 2,423 new caravans, or 2.9 percent sales growth.

The pull of the open road that prompts so many leisure vehicle owners to set out on exciting adventures year in and year out, is more widespread than ever before thanks to the burgeoning economic recovery in Europe – and is of course having a welcome ripple effect on the European leisure vehicle sector.

“We’re pleased that the sales figures for the first quarter of this year not only confirm but also exceed our optimistic projections, and we’re confident that this positive trend will continue during the remainder of this year,” said Hans-Karl Sternberg, General Secretary of the European Caravan Federation (ECF).

**For further information about caravanning, please visit our web sites:**

[www.civd.de](http://www.civd.de) or [www.caravanning-info.de](http://www.caravanning-info.de).

#### **The European Caravan Federation**

The European Caravan Federation (ECF), which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, is an umbrella organization that represents the interests of the national associations of the European leisure vehicle industry. François Feuillet and Hans-Karl Sternberg are, respectively, president and general secretary of the ECF. Founded in 1964, the ECF is composed of 12 national organizations, each of which represents the interests of the manufacturing arm of the leisure vehicle industry in each of the EU member states. The ECF is the lobbying organization, Brussels, for the European leisure vehicle industry. In this capacity, the ECF lobbies EU legislators on political, economic, and technical matters that are of concern to ECF members. The ECF’s head office is located in Zurich, Switzerland.