

## Press Release

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There is nothing better than traffic jams to test the efficiency of a clean and silent vehicle. Paris' "boulevard périphérique" on a Christmas Eve Friday night: what a fabulous ground for Toyota's hybrid-engine Prius. In brief, the worst case scenario of a traffic jam. Accelerate, brake, start again, brake, hoot. At low speed, stuck between a diesel and a petrol engine, the car runs on its electric engine and proves to be particularly silent, and of course pollution free (89% less pollution in the atmosphere than a new medium-size car). Which is far from being the case with other vehicles, and even less so with lorries. When traffic is moving, no problem, the Prius adapts itself. Above 50Km/h, it switches to petrol. Good smooth acceleration, from 0 to 80Km/h in less than 10 seconds. A proper family saloon, with a sober line, spacious and comfortable inside. Braking system, steering, air-conditioning and ESP path corrector are electric and therefore less noisy. Starting is somewhat surprising; there is no noise, one has to get used to it.

## DRIVING SILENCE



### **A testimony by Bernard Darniche, a former rally driver and founder of the "Citoyens de la route"**

" In June 2004, I tried the Prius with the minister of Transport, Gilles de Robien, when the keys were handed over by Toyota. The minister asked me to drive him to Amiens. I found the car pleasant to drive and silent – which is a good point. At red lights, it does not shoot off. The contact is very smooth."

*Les Citoyens de la route*  
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### **When purchasing, take advantage of fiscal measures**

A tax credit between €1,525 and €2,300 can be granted to private individuals who wish to buy a new Prius. Companies may be exempted from the company vehicle tax (TVS) and may depreciate over 12 months instead of five years

