

China looks to ban petrol, diesel cars

A BMW in Shenyang in China's northeastern Liaoning Province.AFPSTR

China is joining France and Britain in announcing plans to end sales of gasoline and diesel cars.

China's Industry Ministry is developing a timetable to end production and sale of traditional fuel cars and will promote development of electric technology, state media on Sunday cited a Cabinet official as saying.

The reports gave no possible target date, but Beijing is stepping up pressure on automakers to accelerate development of electrics.

China is the biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold, giving any policy changes outsized importance for the global industry. A Deputy Industry Minister, Xin Guobin, said at an auto industry forum on Saturday that his Ministry has begun "research on formulating a timetable to stop production and sales of traditional energy vehicles", according to the Xinhua News Agency and the Communist Party newspaper *People's Daily*.

France and Britain announced in July that they will stop sales of gasoline and diesel automobiles by 2040 as part of efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.

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