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**THE OIL PRICE RAISE AND THE ENERGY SOURCES  
DIVERSIFICATION: THE ETHANOL AUTOMOTIVE FUEL CASE**

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**Overview**

The raise of the international oil prices has been taken the world to diversify the oil productive areas due to the 1974 and 1979 crises. Since then, OPEC has been losing their power of influence in the international market oil prices, and is, nowadays, aiming to balance their supply to the world demand forecasts and the non-OPEC sources of oil supply. This exacerbated interest is due to the fact that OPEC countries are, mostly, heavily dependent on the oil exports revenues and not interest in big oil prices variations, as well as it can negatively interfere in their budgets. In the last few years, the oil prices restarted to rise, and together with environmental concerns (and all the geopolitical issues related to the oil access), has been driving countries to different pathways of actions from the last crises. Now is notorious the energy policies tendencies to an energy sources diversification, especially for the transport sector, witch is a big oil products consumer and CO2 emissary. Due to that, alternative energy sources, especially the renew and clean ones, has been gaining space in the energetic polices agenda of many countries, that are seeking, in one time and effort, reduce the oil dependency and minimize environmental problems.

In this way, the transport sector has been introducing alternative fuels as the ethanol and biodiesel, in order to attend these world's new objectives and demands. The ethanol, focus of this study, has been gaining a lot of attention from many countries: USA, Canada, European Union members, China and Japan; witch has been stimulating new productive areas or programs, or both.

**Methods**

This paper aims at analyzing the experience of some countries that have promoted the use of automotive ethanol fuel, in order to reduce the dependence of the imported oil. It was done thru a description and analysis of the evolution of these countries ethanol automotive fuels programs once they face an oil price rise and all geopolitical problems related to the oil supply access. The objective was to built a summarize framework for countries best practices related to the implementation to ethanol automotive fuel use, concerning each country's experience.

**Conclusions**

The results points to an urgent necessity to introduce an alternative to the gasoline and to the diesel as automotive fuels. The high oil prices on the international market can explain the worldwide interest in alternative automotive fuels, as the pro-ethanol program in Brazil, in the late 70's, that objective to reduce the imported oil dependency. There is also the environmental requirements, as the MTBE banishment, and the Quioto Treated, that can explain, as well, the countries high interest for less polluting fuels than the fossil ones.

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