

# Cabinet Newsletter

*Newsletter n. 31, 28 January 2011*

Dear Reader,

On Monday, Vice President Tajani spoke in Parma, Italy, at the helm of the city's brand-new project on electric mobility. The most innovative project in Italy in this domain, Parma's plan for electric mobility falls within the strategy of *Zero Emission City*, which was accepted at this week's conference on "European Policy for Electric Mobility". Parma's strategy entails the development of a network of 100 points of recharge for electric car batteries in the next two years, as well as 200 further stations by 2015.



Antonio Preto  
Head of Cabinet

A complex investment of 9 million Euros, this pilot programme has created a laudable precedent for other cities in Italy and Europe, demonstrating the power and importance of innovation. The fact that it is not a large European metropolis, but a regular city that has embarked upon this challenge, further proves the universality and feasibility of innovation projects across our continent. European cities should become models of their own in the industrial domains of their choosing.

Participating in a roundtable discussion, Vice President Tajani gave a state of the play of electric cars at the European level. He affirmed, "Europe is convinced that it has an important role to play, in that it can provide clear value added by responding to ever-complex challenges of urban mobility, whilst respecting the principle of subsidiarity".

He highlighted the various initiatives undertaken by the EU in sustainable transport, noting that by 2020, the global car fleet will total 1.6 billion vehicles, surpassing today's 800 million. This will be accompanied by a growing lack of energy resources, whose price will inevitably skyrocket, making energy diversification prudent, if not outright critical. For this reason, Vice President Tajani supported encouraging production and the commercialisation of "green" vehicles. He pointed to the Commission's "Innovation Union", which revolutionises the very concept of innovation policy, tying it for the first time to industrial policy. As the Vice President argued, "There is no competitiveness or growth without innovation".



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As other Commission-led or -sponsored initiatives, Vice President Tajani also spoke of Cars 21 (see newsletter no. 21), our upcoming Strategy on Raw Materials (see next week's newsletter for further information), Zero Energy Buildings, and the role of Key Enabling Technologies in supporting the Smart Cities initiative. In closing, he added that it is Europe's cities, including Parma, that are at the nerve centre of economic growth, innovation and employment. Much can be learned from cities like Parma, and we hope you will consider promoting or launching similar initiatives in your own home city!

Also that day, Vice President Tajani spoke in Bologna, Italy on Europe's new industrial policy, presented in Brussels and Berlin on 29 October, and its impact on regional production systems, particularly as they relate to the region of Emilia-Romagna. Similar to his speech in Parma, the Vice President spoke of innovation, although he also highlighted clusters, enterprise networks, and access to credit and 'cross-border' venture capital.