

*Brussels, 1/12/2010
C/2010/8391*

*Mr Gianfranco Fini
President of the
Italian Chamber of Deputies
Piazza Montecitorio
I-00100 Rome
Italy*

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Italian Parliament for transmitting its Opinion on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility¹ and for its positive assessment of the Action Plan.

The preparation of the Action Plan on Urban Mobility was guided by the results of the extensive consultation of stakeholders that followed the publication of the Green Paper "Towards a New Culture for Urban Mobility"² in September 2007. The contributions received from representatives of civil society, public authorities and citizens provided clear indications on thematic areas and concrete actions which would offer European added-value results. All actions included in the Action Plan were carefully assessed with regard to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

As outlined in the Action Plan, urban transport systems are integral elements of the European transport system and as such an integral part of the Common Transport Policy under Title VI of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Furthermore, sustainable urban mobility is a prerequisite for the economic development of our cities and of the European Union, for maintaining a high quality of life for our citizens, and for the protection of the environment. As a consequence, sustainable urban mobility is an issue that requires the attention at all levels of government in the European Union.

Urban mobility is pivotal to the success in achieving key EU policy objectives. While many legislative and non-legislative initiatives impact directly or indirectly on urban transport, the mid-term review of the 2001 European Transport White Paper recognised that a coherent framework for European action in the field of urban mobility could be needed. The mid-term review therefore announced the publication of a Green Paper in 2007³. The Action Plan was prepared on the basis of the results of the Green Paper debate.

¹ *Action Plan on Urban Mobility COM(2009)490, adopted on 30 September 2009*

² *Towards a new culture for urban mobility COM(2007)55*

³ *Keep Europe moving - Sustainable mobility for our continent COM(2006)314*

The twenty actions foreseen in the Plan will offer the European Commission the opportunity to address in an integrated way certain specific issues related to urban mobility while doing so in partnership with local, regional and national authorities. For the implementation of these actions, the Commission will rely on existing EU programmes and instruments and continues to work closely with stakeholders. A review of the Action Plan is envisaged for 2012.

The Commission takes note of the recommendations which the Italian Parliament has provided, for example on the need to reconcile initiatives taken in the field of transport policy with other EU policies, the need for inter-institutional coordination, the importance of addressing wider urbanised areas, the importance of intermodal connections in general and between urban transport and TEN-T networks in particular, and the need to fully exploit the potential of intelligent transport systems. The Commission also takes note of the comments that the Italian Parliament has provided on the actions related to the urban mobility observatory and funding.

The Commission agrees that there is a need to promote the use of forms of transport that are less costly and cause less pollution and congestion, and that transport in urban areas deserves specific attention.

Because over 70% of the EU population lives in urban areas and urban transport is responsible for an important part of transport CO₂ emissions, urban transport will be a key element of the forthcoming White Paper on the future of European transport policy. Urban policies should contribute to building a transport system which is more sustainable and less dependent on oil.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,

/-/ Maroš Šefčovič