

**Informal Transport Council
Urban Mobility**

La Coruña, Spain
12 February 2010

Speaking notes by Vice-President Siim Kallas

I would like first to thank the Presidency for convening this informal meeting on key issues for urban mobility. As Commissioner responsible for transport, my guiding principle over the next 5 years is to promote transport services that truly benefit people. European cities are different, but the basic problems are the same – most people are dissatisfied with the traffic situation in their area.

- 40% of CO₂ emissions and 70% of other pollutants originate in urban areas. In addition, two-thirds of road accidents and around one third of fatalities occur there.
- The EU must deliver on its political commitments for 2020 for reductions in CO₂, energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as meet our air quality and road safety objectives.
- Achieving these goals will require substantial changes in transport systems and transport technologies – across all modes.

Therefore, I very much appreciate the Presidency's discussion paper and the important questions it raises. I look forward to the Council conclusions on urban mobility in June and their important contribution to future developments at the European level.

I also welcome Member States' responses to the Action Plan on Urban Mobility which was adopted last September.

The only way that I see that we can achieve the above-mentioned goals is to coordinate our efforts.

- We therefore need to agree on a series of actions at EU, Member State, regional and city levels – whilst respecting competencies! Doing so, we must put the citizens at the centre of our consideration.

What can be done to improve the situation in Europe's cities:

- improving public transport and co-modality to reduce congestion;
- deployment of clean, alternative fuel vehicles to reduce pollution;
- deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems for a better use of the existing infrastructure.

In your replies to the Action Plan you have ranked funding of urban mobility very high. I believe that the Commission's CIVITAS Initiative is a good example of how EU level action can disseminate good practice and stimulate additional funding for sustainable mobility measures. The outcome is widely spread through the CIVITAS Forum network – and beyond.

We will aim for similar success with our future actions.

In order to meet our global economic, environmental and energy objectives, we will need more efficient and better integrated transport systems – at city level, inter-urban level right through to international connections. To achieve this will require stronger co-operation by all relevant stakeholders.

We will ensure from our side a coordinated effort with other initiatives such as the Road Safety Action Plan, the Intelligent Transport Systems Action Plan, and the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan. Actions on urban mobility will also be coordinated with efforts to reduce CO2 in our cities, (including the "Covenant of Mayors" and "Smart Cities" initiatives.)

As you know the preparation of the White Paper on a sustainable future for transport is at an advanced stage. It is clear that decisions we take in the context of urban transport can make a major contribution to the Commission's stated goal of de-carbonizing transport and radically reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by 2050.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I very much look forward to hearing your contributions.

Thank you for your attention!