

Brussels, 5/07/2010
C/2010/4591

Mr. Přemysl Sobotka
President of the Senate of
the Parliament of the Czech Republic
reakcekomise@senat.cz

Dear Mr Sobotka,

The European Commission would like to thank the Czech Senate for its Resolution on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility¹ COM(2009)490} adopted on 18 March 2010.

The preparation of the Action Plan on Urban Mobility was guided by the results of the extensive stakeholder consultation 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. Several EU policy areas are thus closely linked to urban mobility and cannot achieve their objectives without taking into account urban specificities.

As a consequence, sustainable urban mobility is an issue that requires the attention at all levels of government in the European Union, and it is increasingly influenced by both horizontal and transport-specific legislation, at both national and European level. In addition, cities benefit from financial support for improving their transport systems through the EU's structural funds and they work together in EU-funded research and demonstration projects aimed at new urban mobility solutions.

¹ Action Plan on Urban Mobility COM(2009)490

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

Urban mobility will remain pivotal to the success in achieving key EU policy objectives (e.g. on competitiveness, cohesion or climate change). While many legislative and non-legislative initiatives impact directly or indirectly on urban transport, the mid-term review of the 2001 European Transport White Paper³ 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 2007. The Action Plan was prepared on the basis of the results of the Green Paper debate.

The twenty actions foreseen in the Plan 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 European Commission will rely on existing EU programmes and instruments. It has no intention to prescribe one size-fits-all solutions but to give incentives and tools to cities who want to act. Any further action may be decided following the results of the review of the Action Plan, envisaged for 2012.

The Commission will continue to work closely with the relevant stakeholders to define the approach for the implementation of the 20 actions. The Commission takes note of the explicit support expressed by the Senate for Commission actions in support of the creation and development of platforms for discussion, exchange of best practice, and thematic seminars; of research and development projects for lower and zero-emission vehicles; and for improving the exchange of information about the urban transport in European towns and cities.

I am looking forward to further developing our policy dialogue,

Yours sincerely,

/-/ Maroš Šefčovič

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