



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

Brussels, 26 AVR. 2010
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Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the French Senate for its Opinion on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility¹ {COM(2009)490} adopted on 30 September 2009 and transmitted on 18 December.

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 from civil society, public authorities and citizens provided strong indications on thematic areas and concrete actions which would offer clear perspectives for European added-value results.

All activities foreseen in the Action Plan were carefully assessed with regard to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. In the coming years, the Commission will work closely with the relevant stakeholders in implementing the 20 actions announced in the Action Plan. Throughout this process, the Commission will continue to be guided by 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.

¹ Action Plan on Urban Mobility COM(2009)490

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

Monsieur Hubert HAENEL
Président de la Délégation
pour l'Union européenne
Sénat de la République Française

Against the background that EU legislative and non-legislative actions impact directly or indirectly on urban transport, and that urban mobility will remain pivotal to the success in achieving key EU policy objectives (e.g. on competitiveness, cohesion or climate change), it was recognised that a coherent framework for EU action in the field of urban mobility could be needed. The 2006 mid-term review of the European Transport White Paper³ 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.

For the actions presented in the Action Plan, the Commission will continue to work in partnership with the relevant stakeholders to define the approach for their implementation. The Commission therefore appreciates and takes note of the specific comments that the Senate has provided. It wants to stress that through different actions, the Commission intends to offer assistance by facilitating, encouraging and supporting the work of local, regional and national authorities. It has no intention to prescribe one size-fits-all solutions but to give incentives and tools to cities who want to act. It also takes note of the observations from the Senate on the European Mobility Week and on the establishment of a virtual observatory on urban mobility on the internet, in the form of a best practice and information database.

The twenty actions foreseen in the Plan will offer an important opportunity to address, in an integrated way, certain carefully selected and assessed issues related to urban mobility at the level of the European Union. For the implementation of these actions, the Commission will rely on existing EU programmes and instruments. Any further action may be decided following the results of the review of the Action Plan, envisaged for 2012.

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

Yours sincerely,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President of the European Commission

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