Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the humankind. The European Union leads by example: its action to drive the global fight against climate change is central to our positive agenda “to help create a Europe that protects, empowers and defends”. Transport is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and all projections suggest that transport activity across Europe will continue to grow. This makes achieving a mobility system that is sustainable all the more challenging. Unless action is taken to cut transport emissions, transport will swallow all the gains being made in other sectors. Decisive action on emissions from transport is therefore essential. This will benefit the planet and the European economy, as climate action and modernisation of the economy are two sides of the same coin.

Our objective is to strengthen our ability to confront the challenge of climate change and improve the quality of life of our citizens, while at the same time maintain and extend the competitive edge of our industries to create jobs, generate sustainable economic growth, and drive innovation in renewable energy technologies. This means being the world leader in innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation. The transition to a low-carbon economy is both an opportunity and a challenge for EU industry. This modernisation and decarbonisation work has addressed all aspects needed for ensuring that the best clean, connected and automated mobility solutions, transport equipment and vehicles will be developed, offered and manufactured in Europe.

The package addresses three key political, interlinked priorities:

- Europe that protects the planet;
- Europe that empowers its citizens;
- Europe that defends its industry and workers.
The new CO2 standards will help manufacturers to embrace innovation and supply low-emission vehicles to the market. They will also drive EU Member States to achieve their 2030 climate targets and cities to increase the quality of life and the health of their citizens. At the same time, we ensure a better deal for consumers and restore trust in the EU’s approach by putting in place a robust testing framework for type-approval based on new testing procedures that will ensure effective compliance with the rules. European citizens will only fully embrace the transition towards a new mobility system if it becomes easy to refuel and people can travel smoothly between different Member States, be it for their jobs or to go on holiday; reason why the package also includes a range of investment solutions for the trans-European deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, leaving no region behind.

The Directive on Passenger Coach Services, which will stimulate the development of bus connections over long distances and offer for European citizens alternative options to the use of private cars, will also contribute to reducing transport emissions.

The Clean Vehicles Directive will promote clean mobility solutions in public procurement tenders and thereby help to stimulate demand.

The Combined Transport Directive will stimulate the combined use of trucks and trains, barges or ships for the transport of goods, by making it more competitive compared to road freight transport only: reducing the number of trucks on the road will mean a reduction of CO2 emissions and air pollution by the freight transport sector, as well as reduced congestion and accidents on our roads.

All these initiatives are linked in an integrated industrial policy aimed at ensuring that the car of tomorrow and its components will be invented and produced in the EU, creating jobs and growth here in Europe, with the battery initiative of particular strategic importance.