

PM 12 October 2009

Sustainable future transport - An integrated, technology-based and user-friendly transport system

Statement by the Committee on Transport and Communications 2009/10:TU4

Summary

In this statement the Committee reports its scrutiny of the European Commission's communication "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system", dated 17 June 2009 (COM (2009) 279).

The objective of this communication is to provide briefing material for discussions in preparation for work on a common transport policy for the period up to 2020.

In summary, the Committee notes with satisfaction that the Commission's communication has, at an early stage in the process, given various stakeholders the opportunity of contributing points of view on the thoughts and proposals to be presented. In all essentials, the Committee agrees with the Commission's assessments.

In this statement the Committee places great emphasis on environment and climate related issues. Among other things, the Committee sees a need for infrastructure, both existing and future, to be "climate-proofed" in the face of risks anticipated as a consequence of climate change.

At the same time the Committee notes the importance of creating a more unified transport system in Europe, in which the various types of traffic are better coordinated into an efficient and sustainable transport system. Further, the Committee sees ongoing technological progress as an important means of hastening the transition to a society with low carbon dioxide emissions. New technology needs to be combined with various policy levers, including financial ones, to achieve the objectives desired.

In this connection the Committee emphasises the importance for a common and sustainable transport policy of taking into account the different conditions prevailing in EU Member States. For Sweden this means long distances, sparse settlement and a cold climate with infrastructure covered by snow and ice in a number of regions in winter. These conditions entail special measures and higher costs.

The Committee also considers that in a number of areas Sweden has implemented or set in motion projects and initiatives which might well serve as best practice examples in the ongoing effort to develop a sustainable transport policy for the EU.

This opinion contains an explanatory reservation (SocDem, Lft, Grn).

