

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE COMMUNICATION ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR TRANSPORT: HOW TO REPLY**

In its Communication on “**A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system**”, the Commission is encouraging all interested parties to contribute their views on what policy measures are needed to address the future challenges of the transport sector. This document is meant to provide guidance on how to respond to this consultation.

The Communication identifies trends and challenges (Chapter 3), general policy objectives (Chapter 4) and broad policy instruments (Chapter 5) for transport, but it does not propose detailed policy actions at this stage. **The present consultation aims at collecting ideas on how to translate the general objectives and priorities into concrete policy measures.**

The Communication stresses the magnitude of the challenges that the transport system will have to meet in the near future. The latter go from ageing and urbanisation to climate change and fuel scarcity in an increasingly competitive world. It also proposes ambitious objectives for achieving sustainability under these demanding circumstances, by aiming to develop an integrated, technology-led and user friendly transport system. Contributors are invited to be forward looking and to present suggestions for policy actions that match the ambition of the goals and are equal to the task.

Once suitable options have been identified, the Commission will proceed with assessing their likely effectiveness, by taking into account their economic, social and environmental impacts. The Commission will also consider whether actions are suitable for Community intervention or should rather be carried out at local or national level. The selected actions will then be included in a multi-annual programme to be presented next year in a so-called “White Paper”.

The Communication has identified seven policy fields for possible intervention. All stakeholders and interested parties, on the basis of their experience and knowledge of the transport sector, are invited to comment on these, provide examples of actions that have proved successful and submit their views on which specific measures the Commission should consider.

In particular:

- (1) **Infrastructure.** What can the EU do to promote the integration of modal networks as well as their maintenance and upgrade? What should be the priorities for investment? Which measures would allow a better exploitation of the networks and a balanced use of the different modes?
- (2) **Funding and pricing.** What can the EU do to ensure that prices in transport correctly reflect costs to society? What actions should be considered for implementing the ‘polluter-pays’ and ‘user-pays’ principles in transport? What should be done with the revenues thus obtained?

- (3) **Technology.** Many technologies are being developed or are already available to improve the environmental performance of transport, increase safety and reduce congestion and dependence on oil. What can the EU do to accelerate the development and deployment of these new technologies?
- (4) **Legislative framework.** What can the EU do to further improve working conditions, health, safety and security standards in transport and the rights of passengers? In which sectors should market opening be pushed forward and how? What measures of a regulatory nature should be considered to reduce the transport sector's environmental impact?
- (5) **Behaviour.** Sustainability of transport also depends on sound planning and on a change in transport habits. Are there measures that can be taken at EU level to improve accessibility and modify transport needs and behaviour?
- (6) **Coordinated action.** Effective action requires coordination between different levels of government: what can the EU do to facilitate this process and avoid inconsistent approaches? Many of the challenges for transport will be in the urban environment: are there specific measures the EU could take to help local authorities?
- (7) **The external dimension.** The transport sector is increasingly becoming more international. Which actions in the transport sector can help to foster relations with our neighbouring countries and encourage sustainable growth there? What measures can help the EU industry and transport operators to thrive in the international context? How can the Union better contribute to sustainable global governance?

This list of question is indicative and not exhaustive. Suggestions on policy intervention outside the listed fields are also welcome.

The Communication and the consultation stage it launches will be followed by a new stakeholder conference, which the Commission considers organising in the autumn (exact date to be confirmed) where the options identified during this consultation exercise will be presented and discussed.

Views on the future of transport and on possible policy options should be submitted to the mailbox: [tren-future-of-transport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:tren-future-of-transport@ec.europa.eu) by 30 September 2009<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Contributions will be published on the Internet. It is important to read the specific privacy statement attached to this consultation for information on how your personal data and contribution will be dealt with. Professional organisations are invited to register in the Commission's Register for Interest Representatives. (<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regrin>). This Register was set up in the framework of the European Transparency Initiative with a view to provide the Commission and the public at large with information about the objectives, funding and structures of interest representatives.