

Comment on EU transport policy

In Transport policy it is most important to increase economical efficiency and decrease environmental burden. Today and even more in the future business and work is up to high degree based on rapid generation and accumulation of knowledge. This process is dependent on communication channels and co-operative systems and it is based on human contacts and flow of information. Networking is crucial for work. In order to support knowledge economy we need

- High quality telecommunication infrastructure
- Increased usage of ICT and information networks
- Less time and money used for travelling to work places and meetings
- Work place development and visionary management to generate relevant work organisation for this rationality.

The aim of EU-transport policy should be the conversion of vehicle (car) based and work related physical transport to transport of ideas, connections and information in telecommunication networks.

“Commuting” in information networks instead of roads or airways bring more economical efficiency, less environmental emissions and save (commuting) time for personal activities or work.

The policy to convert work related transport into telecommunication networks is linked to discussion about telework, e-work and telepresence.

In EU we have to avoid increasing dependency of physical transport in building cities and planning regional infrastructure. It is not reasonable to invest structurally more on physical transport infrastructure because of increasing price of energy and because of the policy to fight global warming. Instead of roads, motorways, bridges, large shopping centers etc. the people and the society need more environmental quality, less physical traffic and opportunities for virtual travelling and exchange of information via high speed communication in information networks. Strategic investments and the focus of social and city planning should be more and more on building communication networks in order to replace physical traffic.

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