



The European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility

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<p>In brief</p>	<p>The Action Plan on Urban Mobility, adopted by the European Commission on 30 September 2009, is a plan of 20 concrete short and long term measures. With this document, the European Commission offers local, regional and national authorities a toolbox to help them develop a more sustainable urban mobility. The suggested actions will be implemented over the next four years and will be assessed in 2012 to be adapted to the needs.</p>
<p>EU institution</p>	<p>European Commission – Directorate General for Transport</p> <p>The Action Plan on Urban Mobility is a Communication from the European Commission addressed to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region. With this communication, the European Commission initiates a legislative proposal which needs to be approved by the Parliament and the Council, following the codecision procedure, in order to be fully adopted.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>The Action Plan is the direct follow up of the Green Paper on Urban Mobility “Towards a New Mobility Culture”, adopted on 25 September 2007, which aimed at developing a new European strategy for urban transport.</p> <p>Whilst transport in urban areas is a responsibility of the EU’s Member States, the European Union has an important role to play. Many cities in the EU encounter similar mobility problems and challenges in term of congestion, pollution or energy savings. With this Action Plan, the EU aims to encourage and assist local authorities to develop sustainable policies in the field of mobility. The latter remain free to use and develop the tools proposed by the European level.</p> <p>Achieving more sustainable transport will also help the EU to reach its objectives in the field of energy savings, climate protection and health.</p>
<p>Content</p>	<p>The 20 actions are organised around six themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Promoting integrated policies</u>: in order to accelerate the take-up of sustainable urban mobility plans in cities (1 & 2)). The European Commission will prepare guidance material, support promotional activities and encourage Member States to create platform for exchange of best practices. The Commission will also encourage transport for healthy urban environments (3). - <u>Focusing on citizens</u> The European Commission will encourage the development of a platform for passenger rights in urban public transport (4) based on exchange with stakeholders and will improve accessibility for persons with reduced mobility (5). It also encourages the improvement of travel information (6), the creation and access to green zones (7) and the continuation of campaigns (8). Energy-efficient driving will be part of the driving education (9).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Greening urban transport</u>: The Action Plan proposes to further support research projects for zero emission vehicles (10) and to go on with the development of the internet guide on clean and energy-efficient vehicles (11). The European Commission also wants to encourage exchange of information on urban pricing schemes (13) which will contribute to the broader reflection on internalisation of external costs (12). - <u>Strengthening funding</u>: the main objective is to optimise existing EU funding sources (14) and to assess the needs for future funding (15). - <u>Sharing experience and knowledge</u> The Commission will work on improving data and statistics available for urban transport (16) and will establish an urban mobility observatory (17) which would be a platform for practitioners to exchange best practices. - <u>Optimising urban mobility</u> in order to develop efficient transport and encourage modal shift, the European Commission will encourage exchanges (18) and optimisation of urban mobility with a focus on urban freight transport (19) and on Intelligent Transport systems, ITS (20).
<p>What does this mean for you?</p>	<p>The package of measures proposed by the Action Plan directly targets not only local authorities by encouraging better and more complete information for policies making, but also citizens by aiming to implement more user-friendly and comfortable transport as well as creating a healthier environment. Local authorities would also have opportunities to access European Investments Bank financial instruments or to develop public-private partnership with the help of the Commission. New research and demonstration activities and projects in the field of urban mobility will benefit from funding. Finally, the European Commission will examine the needs for funding and might be interested in exchanging with Member States and stakeholders to receive their contributions and views.</p> <p>For EPOMM-PLUS members the adoption of the Action Plan represents a window of opportunity for developing key exchanges and contacts. In some regions (i.e. Flanders) information sessions are currently organised to present and explain the document and its impacts for the different actors. Such exchanges with stakeholders and practitioners of urban mobility might represent a useful tool for EPOMM-PLUS countries in their work to develop national networks on mobility management.</p>
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>The European Parliament has already adopted in April 2009 an own-initiative report, with Gilles Savary as rapporteur, on urban mobility. The Rules of Procedure from the European Parliament do not allow to begin work on another own-initiative report on the same issue within a defined time (in this case not before a year). As a consequence, the Transport and Tourism Committee from the European Parliament has decided to have a debate with the European Commission on this topic to evaluate the possibility of having an accompanying resolution. This resolution would be presented to the vote in plenary and would accompany the final text adopted by the Parliament.</p> <p>The Action Plan measures will be implemented over the next four years with a precise programme for each year (see below); some actions are already underway such as the work on green zones. Several guidance documents will be produced in parallel to these measures to go with their implementations.</p>

		Launch in 2009		Action
		Study on access rules for green zones		1
		Internet guide on clean and energy efficient vehicles		2
		Web portal to improve access to public transport information		6
		Call for subventions for actions on sustainable urban mobility		9
		Information exchange on urban pricing schemes		13
		Internet guide on legislation, funding and best practices		15
		Launch in 2010		
		Dialogue on passenger rights in urban public transport		7
		Study on dedicated support for urban mobility		10
		Annual forum on urban mobility		16
		Stakeholder conference on urban freight		4
		Study on harmonized data collection		17
		Campaign on sustainable mobility behavior		19
		Launch in 2011		
		Recommendation on safe walking and on safe cycling		8
		Recommendation on sustainable urban mobility and Regional Policy		11
		Targeted RTD actions on urban mobility		12
		Study on urban aspects of internalization of external costs		14
		Launch in 2012		
		Recommendation on ITS for urban mobility		3
		Recommendation on urban freight		5
		Recommendation on sustainable urban mobility plans		18
		Recommendation on energy efficient driving as part of driving education		20
Links	Action Plan on Urban Mobility Green Paper "Towards a New Mobility Culture" European Commission, Directorate General for Transport, Action Plan page			