



CiViTAS
Cleaner and better transport in cities

VANGUARD
.....

CIVITAS PAC POSITION PAPER

The Future of Transport -
The White Paper

Draft

REC

December 2010



THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE
IS CO-FINANCED BY THE
EUROPEAN UNION

The CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee

The Political Advisory Committee (PAC) constitutes a small group of motivated politicians from within CIVITAS cities that acts as the Initiative's steering group. Members participate in a personal capacity.

- Typically the PAC's work takes the form of short, policy-styled notes (the "PAC statements"). These are drafted by the PAC with the support of a Secretary, and may be directed towards policy makers at either European, national or local levels, as well as towards industry, transport operators, and other stakeholders. They may also be publicised at international events, e.g. the CIVITAS Forum conference or the European Mobility Week.

PAC members apply for membership in their personal capacity and can serve a maximum of three mandates of two years each. Every two years a call for interest is launched and the new PAC is formed. PAC members are ultimately appointed by the European Commission based on general criteria of representativeness and proven record of the individual candidates.

As a result of the 26th June 2009 call for new PAC members, a new PAC was constituted in September 2009. These are its members:

- Roman Jakic (Chair), Member of Ljubljana City Council, Slovenia
- Bruno Miguel Camacho Pereira (Deputy chair), Deputy Mayor of Funchal, Portugal
- Chronis Akritidis, Deputy Mayor, Athens, Greece
- Gonçalo Nuno de Sousa Mayan Gonçalves, City Councillor, Municipality of Porto, Portugal
- Igor Gievski, President of the City Council Traffic Commission, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Melville Kendal, Councillor, Hampshire County Council, UK
- Diego Fernández Malvido, Deputy Mayor and Councillor, City of Burgos, Spain
- Yordan Mihtiev, Mayor of Gorna Oryahovitsa, Bulgaria
- Rimantas Mikaitis, Deputy Mayor of Kaunas, Lithuania
- Jaanus Mutli, Deputy Mayor of Tallinn, Estonia
- Sándor Nagy, Deputy Mayor of Szeged, Hungary
- Mariann Nørgaard, Alderman, Aalborg, Denmark
- Jean-François Retière, Vice President of Nantes Metropole, France
- Gerhard Rüschi, City Councillor, Graz, Austria
- Karin Temmerman Alderman, Gent, Belgium
- Keith Young, County Councillor, Lancashire, UK

For any further questions concerning the PAC, please contact its Secretary: Ms. Gordana Kozuharova, gkozuharova@rec.org, C/o The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Ady Endre Ut 9-11, 2000 Szentendre, Hungary, Tel: +36 26 504 000 ext. 421

About this document

This Position paper answers to the explicit question of the European Commission to the CIVITAS PAC to provide input for the upcoming White Paper for the EU Transport Policy “the Future of Transport”. This CIVITAS PAC acts as an advisory body to the EC.

The PAC met on the 19th of May to discuss their views in the context of Task 3.7 from its 2009-2011 Workplan: areas for future sustainable urban mobility actions. The discussion built on the outcomes of the Krakow 2009 CIVITAS Forum where 450 urban transport professionals gathered and in a specific roundtable considered the future of urban mobility and which of today’s measures could be useful to address tomorrow’s challenges. The resulting paper was then presented at the PAC meeting of 27th September, where some further minor comments were made. This document represents the final version.

The Future of Transport

The PAC welcomes the recognition of the “urban challenge” in the EC’s Communication to the Council and European Parliament ‘A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user-friendly system’ (COM(2009) 279 (final) of 17 June 2009). It supports the Council’s invitation to the Commission to ensure that the new Transport White Paper contains targets and policies for promoting more efficient, sustainable and safe and healthy urban mobility, as mentioned in the Council conclusions on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility. The PAC highly appreciates the active pursuit of the European Commission to involve local authorities in the process to establish the new White Paper.

Cities will be the focal points of societal changes that influence user needs in transport: an aging population, a higher number of urban dwellers by 2030 combined with high car-dependency in a policy context where energy security and climate change mitigation become increasingly important.

The PAC hopes that the White Paper will provide a framework for actions at local level that contribute to solving local, regional, national, European and global problems. Cities already today take actions that could help offset the foreseen challenges of tomorrow, many of these actions tested (and proved valid solutions) within the framework of the CIVITAS programme. More cities should apply these solutions, learning from the CIVITAS experience.

Funding local transport measures – saving costs

An absolute priority for the CIVITAS Forum members are the financial challenges ahead. Local authorities all over Europe face a challenge to fund local transport measures, due to decreased income through local taxes or through budget cuts at the national and regional level.

The PAC is aware that European capital investment programmes cannot be of benefit to all European cities. This strengthens the need for the White Paper to clarify issues related to resourcing of local measures, enabling provision of information on feasible and efficient business cases.

Standardisation of public urban transport vehicles, systems, services and products can reduce costs for urban authorities and end users. It can ensure the success of the integrated

European internal market. Cities face problems like “vendor lock-in” due to the fact that each system (e.g. tram manufacturer) provider uses its own specifications. Standardisation and open-source software development should be supported by relevant research activities. The PAC is interested to take up its role in a further discussion on the internalisation of external costs of car use at the local level (through parking or other charges). It recognises that this is a difficult discussion for many local authorities and politicians at times that are economically problematic.

Smart solutions to reach local transport objectives

The PAC looks forward to see further developments for smart solutions targeted to urban transport. It is convinced that the finalisation of the GALILEO deployment will bring interesting urban applications. There is an important difference between the level of ITS take up in Western European and central and east European cities which may be attributable to the difference in infrastructure quality (ie. its not possible to put a GPS based vehicle tracking system on a 40 year old tram). This is an area of action where the EC could play a role, for instance, modernizing run-down infrastructure in new member states with EU funding while obliging the take up of ITS in big infrastructure projects. It welcomes synergy with the EC’s Action Plan for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Europe (Dec. 2008) and associated directive.

The EC is invited to consider the wider application of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) for better public transport management, so that public authorities and operators may improve network management as well as track emissions and other wasted resources. This can have immense efficiency gains. Cities are the most important arenas to improve intermodality, and support is sought at the European level to make this happen.

The PAC supports the EC’s efforts to find solutions for standardised payment systems and protocols that can benefit all modes (public transport, public bicycles, car sharing, parking and access regulation fees). Measures that can improve the value chain, and make the use of innovative payment systems more efficient, are welcomed.

Soft measures: the low hanging fruit

Mobility Management measures (or so called “soft” measures) have proved valuable in changing behaviour and prove to be very cost efficient. They can be considered as the “low hanging fruit” in urban transport policy. Measures demonstrated in CIVITAS include personal travel advice, school and company travel planning, local campaigns, eco-driving etc. Solutions such as personalised travel information and planning, car sharing or car pooling, cycling, walking and active travel strategies (soft measures) not only help promote sustainable transport but also healthy lifestyles. Work carried out on personalised travel planning has created a 13 percent reduction in single occupancy car trips in one UK city area. Providing information and the marketing of these modes is of great importance if people are to accept and change their mobility behaviour.

The PAC sees a significant difference between perception of soft measures between old and new member states. In these latter countries with deteriorated infrastructure and bad road conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, good infrastructure is still the priority, while soft measures should be incorporated into the cost (even required as an element of EU funded projects), because it is a type of marketing. Soft measure business cases supported by the EU would be of great help, because physical hard measures and new infrastructure will be harder to deliver in the short to medium term as funding levels are reduced to combat the

recent credit issues throughout Europe. Balancing soft measures with hard measures will help us to promote what we have already.

The PAC encourages EC attention on safety and security issues in the forthcoming White Paper. To a degree this is linked with the issue of standardisation, where traffic rules and signage across the EU are not homogenous, resulting in differing speed regimes and types of restrictive measures, such as pedestrian zones, environmental zones etc. In the field of freight for instance, cities also have varying restrictions.

The PAC invites the EC to explore opportunities to improve conditions for cycling and walking. This could be considered in the context of education of children and road safety which may also incorporate efforts to emphasise eco-driving. The EU's normative for drivers of buses and trucks, through which member states host identical courses serves as an example of a harmonized approach that can be applied in other areas of safety and security.

Making it happen

The CIVITAS PAC stresses the importance of sharing success stories. The EC is invited to help local authorities with this process by providing the intelligence (e.g. in the form of trustworthy statistics, carried by the “urban mobility observatory”) to identify cost-beneficial measures and to improve the environmental, economic and social performance of urban transport systems.