



POLITICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) OF THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE

Position paper Urban Mobility Package 2013

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CiViTAS
Cleaner and better transport in cities



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About this document

This Position paper responds to the invitation of the European Commission to the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC) to support the Urban Mobility Package 2013, adopted by EC on the 17th of December 2013. In this regard, the CIVITAS PAC acts as an advisory body to the EC.

The PAC met on the 24th of September 2014 in Casablanca, during the CIVITAS Forum Conference 2014, to discuss their views concerning the Urban Mobility Package 2013, and in particular the Communication "**Together towards competitive and resource efficient urban mobility**".

The resulting paper was circulated among the PAC members. This document represents the final version of the PAC Statement

Introduction – The Urban Mobility Package 2013

Cities are home to over 70 % of the EU population and account for some 85 % of the Union's GDP. Most journeys begin and end in cities. In many urban areas, however, increasing demand for urban mobility has created a situation that is not sustainable: severe congestion, poor air quality, noise emissions and high levels of CO₂ emissions. Urban congestion jeopardises EU goals for a competitive and resource-efficient transport system.

The need for EU level action to deliver sustainable urban mobility was highlighted again in the 2011 Commission's White Paper "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area". As a follow-up to this White Paper, the European Commission stated its intent to publish an Urban Mobility Package composed of a Communication "Together towards competitive and resource efficient urban mobility" and a Recommendation on an "EU Framework for Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans".

With the Urban Mobility Package, the Commission reinforces its supporting measures in the area of urban transport by:

- Sharing experiences, show-casing best practices and fostering co-operation;
- Providing targeted financial support;
- Focusing research and innovation on delivering solutions for urban mobility challenges, involving Member States and enhancing international co-operation.

The Communication sets out how the Commission will strengthen its actions on sustainable urban mobility in areas where there is EU added value. The Commission also encourages Member States to take more decisive and better coordinated action. In particular, the Commission puts forward specific recommendations for coordinated action between all levels of government and between the public and the private sector in four areas: urban logistics, urban access regulation, deployment of intelligent transport system (ITS) solutions and road safety.

The central element of the Urban Mobility Package is the Communication "**Together towards competitive and resource efficient urban mobility**¹". It is complemented by an

¹ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/com\(2013\)913_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/com(2013)913_en.pdf)



annex that sets out the concept of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans², as well as four Staff Working Documents:

- Urban logistics³;
- Urban access regulations⁴;
- Deployment of Intelligent Transport System solutions in urban areas⁵
- Urban road safety⁶.

In addition, there is a number of relevant documents and initiative that can be related to the Urban Mobility Package 2013, namely:

- Impact assessment⁷ and Executive Summary of the impact assessment⁸
- Study to support the Impact Assessment on the Urban Mobility Package⁹
- Public consultation on the urban dimension of the EU transport policy¹⁰
- the Eurobarometer report on “Attitudes of Europeans towards urban mobility”¹¹;
- Data and statistics and the Urban Mobility Scoreboard, based inter alia on the results of the study on the "Collection of European Data and Statistics in the Field of Urban Mobility"¹²;
- Expert Group on Urban Mobility coordinated by DG MOVE.

Finally, the urban dimension is also a key element of cohesion policy for 2014–2020 and urban mobility is a critical element in the framework of urban related policies.

The position of the Political Advisory Committee (PAC)

1. A step-change in European urban mobility

PAC members welcome the renewed push of the European Commission to share good practice and further encouragement for local governments to make urban mobility a key component of their urban policy. However the soft measures included in the package need to be further strengthened to have strong and long lasting impact. The PAC members will positively support the adoption of the Urban Mobility Package 2013, hoping that it will contribute to solving local, regional, national, European problems in the urban mobility context.

² [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/com\(2013\)913-annex_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/com(2013)913-annex_en.pdf)

³ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)524-communication.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)524-communication.pdf)

⁴ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)526-communication.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)526-communication.pdf)

⁵ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)527-communication.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)527-communication.pdf)

⁶ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)525-communication.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)525-communication.pdf)

⁷ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)528-ia.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)528-ia.pdf)

⁸ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd\(2013\)529-resume-ia_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/swd(2013)529-resume-ia_en.pdf)

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/studies/urban_en.htm

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/consultations/2012-12-10-urban-dimension_en.htm

¹¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/doc/ump/flash-eurobarometer-ump-2013.pdf>

¹² Study on Harmonised Collection of European Data and Statistics in the Field of Urban Mobility; MOVE/B4/196-2/2010 (2013)



In particular, the CIVITAS PAC would like to highlight the importance of policy measures foreseen in the Urban Mobility Package 2013 as they represent a step-change in the approach to urban mobility by developing a more sustainable path as well as meeting EU goals for a competitive and resource-efficient European transport system. However, the PAC believes that most of those challenges should have been already put forward few years ago, to allow Member States and cities to adjust their national and regional policies.

2. The Urban Mobility Scoreboard

For what concerns the Urban Mobility Scoreboard, the PAC considers it a very interesting and useful initiative that should be made mandatory for the Member States as well as supported with EU funds available to collect and process the data.

PAC also expresses their concerns regarding the possible misuse and misinterpretation by national and local press and media while using the indicators and data contained in the scoreboard. Therefore the PAC recommends the EC to always accompany publication of the scoreboard indicators data with proper analysis and interpretation

3. The Urban Mobility Expert Group initiative

PAC is favourably welcoming the Urban Mobility Expert Group launched by the European Commission and that will gather together representatives of the national authorities in the transport and urban mobility field.

The PAC considers this initiative is very much in line with the Urban Mobility Package 2013 and it's expected that may fill important gaps as well as help to answer an important question – *what is the national role of Member States in the urban mobility?*

4. More recourses allocated to national languages

PAC members welcome the new initiative on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) as well as the re-launching of Eltis and the CIVITAS2020 initiatives, and the encouragement of their uptake through a number of measures including both financing and the setting up of a new platform to exchange best practice. In this regard, PAC advises the European Commission to have more resources available in the Member States languages, to reduce the language barriers experienced by National and local authorities. As of suggested by EC, PAC will then propose concrete recommendation in terms of the language issue (i.e. which languages are crucial, which parts/materials are to be translated).

Additionally, the CIVITAS PAC stresses the importance of helping local authorities in identifying cost-beneficial measures and improving the environmental, economic and social performance of urban transport systems. As highlighted in the Urban Mobility Package 2013, Cohesion and regional development resources for 2014-2020 should also be taken into account as important sources for improving transport infrastructure in such regions.



5. Support to the CIVINET Policy Statement

The PAC shares the same view as the CIVINET National Networks and would like to reinforce their statement asking to the European Commission to continue funding such networks and to bring forward additional funding for CIVINET networks after 2016.

About the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Political Advisory Committee (PAC) constitutes a small group of motivated politicians from within CIVITAS Network 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 level, as well as towards industry, transport operators and other stakeholders.

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 2013 call for PAC members a new PAC was constituted in September 2013. Hereby we list the current members of the Committee:

- **Sándor Nagy** (Chair), City Development Committee, Szeged, Hungary
- **Gheorghe Nichita** (Deputy Chair), Mayor, Iasi, Romania
- **Ian Davey**, Lead Member on Transport Green Party Councillor, Brighton & Hove City Council
- **Helena Hećimović**, City Counsellor, Koprivnica, Croatia
- **Christian Lavigne**, First Vice-President of Tisséo SMTC, Greater Toulouse, France
- **Steen Moller**, Deputy Mayor, Odense, Denmark
- **Gisela Nacken**, Commissioner for Planning and Environment, Aachen, Germany
- **Hans Lindberg**, Vice Mayor, Umeå, Sweden
- **Paolo Pissarello**, Vice President of AGSC, served in the last five years as First Deputy Mayor in the Municipality of Genoa, Italy
- **Gerhard Rüschi**, City Counsellor, Graz, Austria
- **Gabriel Vallejo Gomila**, Counsellor for Mobility, City of Palma, Mallorca, Spain

For any further questions concerning the PAC, please contact its Secretary: Ms. Chiara Frenca, pac@civitas.eu