



Comune di Parma

ASSESSORE ALLA SOSTENIBILITA' AMBIENTALE, ENERGETICA E ALLA MOBILITA'

Gianluca Borghi

Parma Letter of Commitment to Implement the European Declaration on Cycling

To the European Commission,

On behalf of the City of Parma, I am honoured to present this *Letter of Commitment* to implement the principles of the European Declaration on Cycling. This letter is a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainable urban mobility and our willingness to support the EU's objectives to promote cycling as a key component of the European Green Deal, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and the Urban Mobility Framework.

Our Commitment to the European Declaration on Cycling

The City of Parma fully endorses the principles and objectives set forth in the European Declaration on Cycling. We recognize cycling not only as a sustainable and inclusive mode of transport but also as a catalyst for achieving climate neutrality and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens. We strongly believe that local authorities, like Parma, play a pivotal role in advancing the cycling agenda in the European Union and ensuring that it remains high on the political agenda.

Concrete Measures for Implementation

To support the implementation of the European Declaration on Cycling, Parma commits to adopting and executing a series of strategic measures, which include:

- Expanding and Improving Cycling Infrastructure:** Parma has already an extended network of 160km of cycling lanes, but we are committed to significantly increase our safe and accessible cycling lanes, by creating segregated cycle paths that connect the city centre with suburban and rural areas too. This will involve the development of new cycle highways, the provision of secure bike parking at mobility hubs, and the deployment of charging points for e-bikes.
- Promoting Cycling as a Daily Mode of Transport:** Almost 1,000 workers are already involved in our initiatives to promote Home to Work cycling travels in particular with the bike to work campaign that guarantees up to 50€ per months to each participant. Through targeted campaigns, incentives, and educational programs, we aim to raise awareness about the benefits of cycling. We will keep on working closely with local businesses and educational institutions to boost 'cycle to work' schemes in order to extend the program to new companies and institutions.
- Promoting the emerging bikeconomy:** By supporting cycling-related businesses and services, such as bike repair shops, cycling tourism, and logistics, we aim to strengthen the local economy and create new job opportunities around sustainable mobility and tourism. In the recent years, the Municipality of Parma has built a strong relationship with cargo bikes producers hosting their first national conference. Parma citizens have



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the possibility to receive a public contribution to buy new e-bikes and e-cargo bikes covering up to 50% of the costs.

4. **Supporting Multimodal Mobility:** Parma is committed to improving connectivity between cycling and other modes of transport, such as buses and trains, to create a truly multimodal urban transport system. This includes enabling bicycle transport on public transport and integrating bike-sharing services for first and last-mile access. To foster the use of public transport connecting Parma and its surrounding communities, the Municipality provides substantial incentives to guarantee access to electric shared mobility services.
5. **Strengthening Local and Regional Collaboration:** We are engaged with neighbouring municipalities and regional authorities to ensure a cohesive cycling network that extends beyond the city's borders, supporting the concept of sustainable regional development. In recent years, this collaboration has resulted in the development of new and safe tourist cycling itineraries that promote sustainable and slow tourism. We are determined to keep cooperating with our surrounding communities and our Regional government to provide to our citizens and our tourists an extended and safer integrated network.
6. **Improving Road Safety for Cyclists:** Parma is dedicated to enhancing both the real and perceived safety of cyclists. This includes identifying and addressing road safety black spots, implementing traffic calming measures, and ensuring the physical separation of cycle paths from motorized traffic where feasible. We've built a strong collaboration with cyclists' associations through joint initiatives fostering safety and correct behaviours.

Partnership with the European Commission

We acknowledge the European Commission's commitment to tracking progress on the European Declaration on Cycling. We are committed to providing regular updates on our progress and contributing data to support the Commission's efforts to publish a progress report by the end of 2025.

A Call to Keep Cycling High on the EU Political Agenda

As cities across Europe strive to achieve climate neutrality and improve quality of life, it is imperative that cycling remains a priority in EU sustainable mobility strategies. We call on the CIVITAS Initiative to continue working closely with cities across Europe and the European Commission to promote the principles of the European Declaration on Cycling and ensure its successful implementation.

We believe that by working together, the European Commission, Member States, and local authorities can unleash the full potential of cycling, leading to healthier, greener, and more vibrant communities.

Signed on behalf of the City of Parma,

Gianluca Borghi Deputy Mayor for Mobility and Ecological Transition

Parma, October 3rd 2024