



European Economic and Social Committee

Conference

Achieving the goals of the White Paper on Transport: how civil society can help with delivery

7 December 2012 @ European Economic and Social Committee (JDE62), Brussels

The European Commission in 2011 published the "White Paper on Transport". The document focus very much around the need for a shift away from fossil fuels and for the transport sector to contribute towards lower emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). The overall goal set out in the White Paper, a 60% cut in transport GHG emissions by the middle of the century with 1990 levels as baseline is accompanied by the statement that "curbing mobility is not a option" to reach this goal. These aims have so far received comparatively little criticism. However, the White Paper also as a consequence lays down very ambitious and much more controversial targets to be met by 2050 such as (a) totally phasing-out conventionally fuelled cars in cities, (b) increasing to 40% the use of sustainable low carbon fuels in aviation, (c) cutting at least 40% CO² emissions in shipping, and (d) achieving a 50% shift of medium distance intercity passenger and freight journeys from road to rail and waterborne transport.

Available indicators show that past efforts have not been sufficient and that accomplishing the White Paper goals will require significantly sharper, more proactive and creative policy measures, such as extensive infrastructure investments and different types of political incentives both economical and administrative. It is also increasingly recognised that the ambitious EU goals will not be met without an effective and transparent involvement of civil society actors into the definition and implementation phases of the EU White Paper. The purpose of this conference is to explore novel means of engaging civil society into the EU policy-making as a way to strengthen the public endorsement and the overall efficacy of the EU legislation.

Traditional ways to involve civil society through open public consultations or via dedicated events are obviously not sufficient. New practices are however being tested in different regional and thematic contexts which have demonstrated high potential. Enhanced consultation through social media is a positive example in this direction. To promote a paradigm change in our decision-making, more interactive and cooperative processes between decision-makers at different levels (particularly local authorities) and civil society must become the norm. Real and two-way exchanges are necessary to improve the quality and robustness of political choices. Goals and responsibilities have to be more largely shared among the relevant actors to increase accountability.

The conference will aim to respond to two main questions:

- On what issues relating to the Transport White Paper is a cooperative decision-making particularly needed and likely to improve or facilitate the implementation of decisions?
- How should such a cooperative decision-making between policy-makers at different levels and civil society be set up and implemented? What should be the role of civil society's organisations such as the EESC?

Conference program

Note: Interpretation will be available from and into English, French, and German.

Registration from 8:30

9:15-10:15 Welcome and opening of the conference

Moderated by Stephane Buffetaut, President of the Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society section (TEN) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Staffan Nilsson, President of the EESC

Michael Cramer, Member of the European Parliament

Member of the Committee of the Regions

Laure Chapuis, Member of Cabinet of Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner responsible for Transport

15' Debate

10:15-11:15 The need for a dialogue and cooperative decision-making in the implementation of the White Paper on Transport

Keynote speeches moderated by Marian Krzaklewski, Member of the EESC

Hans-Liudger Dienel, Executive Director of Nexus, Director of the Center for Technology and Society at the Berlin University of Technology, and President of T2M – Participative transport planning and foresight on the European level: Assessments and perspectives

Mari Jüssi, Senior Expert, Transport policy and environment, Stockholm Environment Institute (Tallinn Centre) – Making choices between elections

25' Debate

Coffee break 15'

11:30-12:30 Existing good practices: assessing the benefits of the involvement of civil society in the field of sustainable mobility – projects at the local level

Panel discussion moderated by Stefan Back, Member of the EESC

Patrick Auwerx, Mobiel 21 – Public involvement in mobility management initiatives

Bernd Decker, Rupprecht Consult – Participatory decision-making in CIVITAS projects

Andres Martinez Aranburu, Mobility Department of Donostia / San Sebastian – Participatory actions regarding sustainable mobility in Donostia / San Sebastián

35' Debate

12:30-14:00 Lunch offered by the EESC to all participants at Atrium 6

14:00-15:00 Existing good practices: assessing the benefits of the involvement of civil society in the field of sustainable mobility – larger scale projects

Panel discussion moderated by Stefan Back, Member of the EESC

Jerker Sjögren, CLOSER Program Coordinator – Swedish Green Corridors initiative

Marcin Wolek, Assistant Professor at the Department for Transport Market, Faculty of Economics, University of Gdańsk – How to prevent conflicts arising from lack of civil involvement in large-scale infrastructural projects in Central and Eastern Europe

Joachim Fried, Member of EESC and Director of Economics, Policy and Regulation at Deutsche Bahn – Public participation in railway-infrastructure projects in Germany, such as Stuttgart 21

35' Debate

15:00-16:25 New and innovative means of reaching-out and involving civil society

Round table animated by Sorin Ioniță, Member of the EESC

Stefan Back, Member of the EESC

Henning Banthien, IFOK

David Laws, Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies of the University of Amsterdam

Annick Roetynck, Secretary General of the European Twowheel Retailers' Association

Carlo Sessa, Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems, Rome

45' Debate

16:25-16:45 Conclusions

Matthias Ruete, Director-General of DG MOVE

Stephane Buffetaut, President of the TEN Section of EESC