



SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY

More than 60% of Europeans live in cities, generating almost 85% of the EU's gross domestic product. Cities are a major contributor to climate change, and therefore key players in EU strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Most cities were built and designed before the private car and modern traffic, and before urbanisation processes gained momentum. Today, urbanisation and increased car use/ownership are causing major problems:

- most cities suffer from **congestion**. Road traffic is estimated to increase by 36% between 2000 and 2020¹, so the problem of congestion is only set to intensify;
- cities suffer the most from **pollution**. Urban traffic causes 40% of all CO2 emissions and 70% of other emissions from transport, causing smog, noise etc;
- **safety** is another big problem: one in three fatal road accidents occur in urban areas.

Socialists & Democrats Call for Radical Action

The S&D Group has taken bold leadership on urban mobility - winning the support of the European Parliament in 2009 for a far-reaching Resolution². Parliament's vote persuaded the European Commission to produce a European Action Plan on Urban Mobility, which promises to meet many of our demands:

- reduce congestion and improve mobility to foster growth;
- combat pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and other problems caused by urban traffic;
- ensure the widest possible access to efficient public transport;
- improve road safety and prevent fatalities;
- mobilise financial resources for infrastructure by tapping into new sources (e.g. regional funds, public-private partnerships or a totally new transport financing instrument) and a more flexible approach (for instance, creative use of TEN-T funding for/around cities);
- improve mobility for the elderly, the socially vulnerable and people with disabilities;
- provide support for walking and cycling.

¹ Figures from the European Environmental Agency

² INI/2008/2217, voted on 23/04/2009 with 324 votes to 11 and 15 abstentions

The S&D Group will now mobilise every instrument at the disposal of the European Parliament to ensure that these promises are turned rapidly into action for improved and sustainable urban mobility and a better quality of urban life.