



**Position paper of Energie-Cités**  
in response to the Action Plan on Urban Mobility  
[COM(2009) 490/5]

October 2009

Energie-Cités welcomes the release of the Action Plan on Urban Mobility and thus focusing long awaited attention on urban traffic that is responsible for 40% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 70% of pollutants deriving from road transport<sup>1</sup>.

Energie-Cités sees different positive actions in the Plan aimed at supporting the development of sustainable mobility policies at the local level, especially:

- Promoting integrated policies through accelerating the take-up of **sustainable urban mobility plans**, even though we can regret that the proposed support will only consist of “provide guidance material, promote best practice exchange, identify benchmarks, and support educational activities for urban mobility professionals”,
- Increasing the awareness of the **funding available** from the Structural and Cohesion Funds and the European Investment Bank, in particular information on the link between sustainable urban mobility measures and regional policy objectives,
- Continuing to support the organisation of **Campaigns on sustainable mobility behaviour** (incl. the European Mobility Week),
- Continuing to support **research and demonstration projects** for a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport (public transport, soft modes like cycling and walking, but also new forms of mobility e.g. car-sharing and bike-sharing and lower and zero emission vehicles) e.g. via the CIVITAS Initiative<sup>2</sup>

Energie-Cités also welcomes the fact that “the Commission will also introduce **an urban mobility dimension in the Covenant of Mayors**<sup>3</sup> in order to promote an integrated approach linking energy and climate change with transport, e.g. by encouraging the incorporation of transport and mobility issues in the Sustainable Energy Action Plans to be prepared by the cities participating in the Covenant.” However, this dimension is already entirely considered in the Covenant of Mayors processes, together with the housing, tertiary and industrial sectors.

But as mentioned in the Action Plan “Developing efficient transport systems in urban areas has become an increasingly complex task with both congested cities and greater urban sprawl.” Therefore, it is crucial to direct European attention on this burning local issue with severe global consequences. In this context, urban mobility and transport has to be considered in close relation with urban planning that over-determines the need to travel. **Sustainable urban mobility planning should thus start with thoughtful spatial and urban planning to reduce the need to travel.** Furthermore, **easy non-motorized accessibility** to public and private services we need day-to-day close where we live, is a key issue.

Does the Action Plan on Urban Mobility go far enough? Are the 20 actions it contains aligned with the EU’s “20-20-20” objective and - unrevised - will they meet the challenges related to energy and climate that the EU and its citizens will have to face before 2020 and beyond? Although Energie-Cités is well aware of the limits of the European Commission competencies on such a subject and bearing in mind current transport trends, we cannot but answer “not enough”.

### **1. Alignment of the Action Plan with the EU’s “20-20-20” objective... Local authorities to pave the way...**

In December 2008, the European Union adopted its Energy and Climate Package.

In order to reach the EU’s “20-20-20” objective on time, significant shifts in our political orientations are needed at all levels - European, national, regional and local - and in all areas, especially in the transport sector.

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<sup>1</sup> COM 2007/551 final

<sup>2</sup> [www.civitas.eu](http://www.civitas.eu)

<sup>3</sup> [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)

All society's stakeholders, especially local authorities - whose crucial role is often underestimated - must commit themselves to these objectives. Local authorities are indeed those responsible for renovating urban areas, developing new districts, managing land use, planning and organising mobility policies and transport – all domains that are strongly linked with issues treated in the Action Plan.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009, the European Commission together with 350 Mayors of Cities officially launched in Brussels the Covenant of Mayors initiative. **In October 2009, they are 850 involved in this unique European movement and will be soon 1,000.** A huge success! This is a voluntary-based commitment of European Mayors to go beyond the EU's "20-20-20" objective.

It is widely known that transport issues are the most critical in terms of influencing lifestyle and habits of citizens. Urban mobility planning requires an integrated, long-term vision to plan financial requirements for infrastructure and vehicles, to design incentive schemes, to promote high quality public transport, safe cycling and walking and to coordinate with land-use planning at the appropriate administrative levels. Tailor made solutions adapted to local conditions need to be identified based on broad consultation with local stakeholders and citizens. Urban mobility plans should favor safety and security, access to goods and services, as well as limiting air pollution, noise, GHG emissions and energy consumption – regarding passenger and freight transportation in an integrated system.

European local authorities should go now a step further by developing and implementing voluntary Sustainable Energy Action Plans addressing all sectors incl. transport - compatible with EU energy consumption and production targets.

***Any European policy and/or scheme must be aligned with the EU's "20-20-20" objective.***

***Local authorities should develop and implement voluntary Sustainable Energy Action Plans addressing all sectors incl. transport, aimed at embracing the « factor 4 » at the level of their territories, an indispensable condition for policy coherence...***

## **2. Energie-Cités supports European local authorities to prepare their energy and mobility future by:**

- Assisting those striving for a 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on their territory by 2020 ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu))
- Making citizens' mobility needs compatible with quality of life and environment: good practice / [http://www.energie-cites.eu/cities/case\\_studies\\_en.php](http://www.energie-cites.eu/cities/case_studies_en.php)
- Promoting Car-free days and sustainable urban mobility via e.g. the European Mobility Week: <http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/>
- Setting benchmarks of pioneer cities and invite others to IMAGINE their energy future within a multidisciplinary approach: [www.imagineyourenergyfuture.eu](http://www.imagineyourenergyfuture.eu)
- Reinforcing capacities of European Local Authorities and stimulate transfer of knowledge and experience via seminars, conferences and study tours, as well as a database containing more than 500 local good practices: [www.energie-cites.eu](http://www.energie-cites.eu)

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***Energie-Cités represents 1,000 European Local Authorities  
and promotes local sustainable energy policies***

***[www.energie-cites.eu](http://www.energie-cites.eu)***

***where one can find more about the Energie-Cités' opinion on the Green Paper  
"Towards a new culture for urban mobility" (COM/2007/551 final)***