

We, ECTRI, EURNEX, FEHRL, FERSI, HUMANIST VCE,

- Meeting in Brno, Czech Republic at the opportunity of the Czech EU Presidency event "European Transport Research and Innovation Week" organised by CDV – Czech Transport Research Centre,
- Representing an active part of the European Surface Transport scientific community,
- Having in mind the European Economic Recovery Plan announced by the European Commission on 26 November 2008,
- Having regard to the Commission Green Paper of 25 September 2007 entitled 'Towards a new culture for urban mobility' (COM(2007)0551),
- Having regard to the Commission White Paper of 12 September 2001 entitled 'European transport policy for 2010: time to decide' (COM(2001)0370),
- Having regard to European Parliament resolution of 23 April 2009 on an action plan on urban mobility (2008/2217(INI)),
- Having regards to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the European Parliament's Report on 21 April 2009,
- Committed to the success of the European Research Area in the field of urban transport research,

- Recognising the fact that sixty per cent of the European population lives in urban areas and that number will rise to eighty per cent in 2020, making urban transport a major component of goods and passenger transport in Europe, which has also very significant impact on the environment and health,
- welcoming the European Parliament resolution of 23 April 2009 on an Action Plan on Urban Mobility,
- supporting the European Commission activities on urban mobility and encouraging the rapid publication of the announced Commission Action Plan,
- being convinced that there is added value of action at EU level in the field of urban mobility and especially in the field of research and its application.

- We agree the following Brno Declaration, and invite all urban transport related research stakeholders, municipalities, transport operators and political decision makers to join with us to support it by discussions, actions, and further developments:

Our commitment

1. We are committed to establish partnership between transport research institutions and city and transport authorities and organisations in order to tackle the urban mobility problems and contribute to their solution.
2. We are committed to the common conviction that the application of innovation will provide solutions to the challenges of sustaining transport and mobility in urban areas.
3. We are committed to furthering and expanding the partnership established through the Lyon Declaration of 11 December 2008.

Subsidiarity principles

4. We stress that this partnership should be based on a strict compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and the right to local autonomy on one hand and need to address certain areas through a common effort of stakeholders and key players on the other hand;
5. We recognise that an efficient and sustainable urban transport policy for the benefit of both European citizens and the European economy will only be guaranteed by ensuring equitable treatment between the transport of goods and of passengers and between the different modes and forms of transport;
6. We note that local authorities frequently cannot meet these challenges without European cooperation and coordination, and that the EU must therefore provide studies and a legal framework, finance research and training, and promote and disseminate best practices.

Accelerating European research and innovation in the field of urban mobility

7. We confirm that cooperation between European cities and research has proved its vital importance in CIVITAS and other programmes. We consider it important that these initiatives of the European Commission should continue under FP7 and further funding and expansion of scope must be ensured.
8. We fully agree with the need of upgrading of statistics and databases on urban mobility including data on soft transport modes, road safety, infrastructure quality, environmental and health impact and quantitative and qualitative transport services indicators;
9. We urge that outcomes of publically funded research should be made public in order to promote sustainable ways of mobility and lifestyle;
10. We support the proposal for the further FP7 calls on research and development of ITS technologies, targeting the urban mobility and needs of the urban residents including traffic management, safety and security in urban transport and bringing innovative solutions for goods transport. Furthermore the economical benefits of exploiting the resulting technologies internationally should be supported.

Improvement of public transport services and extension of soft mobility modes

11. We support the proposed measures on improvement of public transport services and stress the need of cooperation between the research community, municipalities and operators for reaching such goal.
12. We recognise the important role that soft transport modes – cycling and walking - are playing for mobility in many cities. Collaboration of cities and research will contribute to exchange of best practices on the European level and enhance the use of these modes.
13. We agree that the rights of urban public transport users, cyclists and pedestrians should be guaranteed by the proposed Users' Charter, emerging from the cooperation of research community, municipalities, operators and political decision makers.
14. We stress that EU cooperation should be encouraged by putting these issues on the FP7 agenda.

Infrastructure, planning and land-use

15. We will support developments towards urban transport infrastructure that has a lower environmental impact and is more resilient to anticipated extremes of climate conditions.
16. We call for measures that encourage the greater integration all modes (including soft-modes, park and ride etc) within an overall infrastructure system that integrates electric vehicles power supplies.
17. We draw attention to the need for streets to be designed and maintained in ways that maintain accessibility and security for both able-bodied and disabled users.
18. We call for greater cohesion between urban and extra-urban areas in addressing transport and related land-use issues. We urge the Commission to proactively support greater cooperation whilst respecting the principles of Subsidiarity.

Research and industry commitment to sustainable mobility

19. There is an urgent need for innovative solutions contributing to the sustainable mobility and sustainable urban development. Some of those steps are in the hands of the local stakeholders; however most of them require joint effort of all players. The EU should play a major role in this issue and direct its research programmes towards the objective of world-leading scientific and technical excellence.
20. We welcome the EC's initiatives on electrification of urban transport and will take a leading role in assessment of the challenges of their deployment.

We underline the need to balance enhanced mobility for Europe's citizens with urgent environmental and traffic safety requirements based on solutions ensuring cost-effectiveness and social cohesion.

Signatories

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