

*Unter dem Ehrenschutz des LHM von Salzburg Dr. Wilfried Haslauer*

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## 2a FACT FILE

### TRAN/ENVI

#### The question of reducing the CO2 emissions from the transportation sector

The transportation sector is responsible for around a quarter of the carbon dioxide emissions in the EU, and demand for micro-mobility is only increasing. What actions may be performed to reduce emissions from transportation? How might more sustainable, greener types of transportation be incorporated into urban planning?

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**Welcome to the 24th nMEP in Salzburg!** We are thrilled to have you join the Committee Transport and Tourism and the Committee Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

We are eagerly looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, working together to tackle the important topics ahead.

To help you prepare for the Committee's work in Salzburg, we have compiled a selection of resources and links to support your preparation. It's essential that you come to the Committee with a solid understanding of the topic we'll be discussing, so please take some time to familiarize yourself with the materials and issue at hand.

Your Committee Presidents,

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**Our committee will be discussing the question of reducing the transportation sector's CO2 emissions.**

*The transportation industry has contributed 7% more to CO2 emissions in the EU over the last 20 years. Currently, it contributes for around 23.2% of total EU CO2 emissions, equal to nearly 50 million tonnes yearly. Numerous health problems are brought on by these high emission levels, which also have a detrimental effect on quality of life. What steps should EU nations take to improve the welfare of their populations and lower CO2 emissions in the transportation sector?*

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## OVERVIEW:

The transportation sector accounts for about a quarter of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU, with mobility demand continuing to rise. Key strategies to reduce emissions include transitioning to electric vehicles, promoting alternative fuels like hydrogen and biofuels, and expanding public transportation networks. Additionally, measures such as car-free zones, infrastructure for cycling and walking, and shared micro-mobility services can encourage sustainable alternatives and reduce reliance on private cars.

Urban planning plays a crucial role in this transition. Compact, mixed-use city designs, smart traffic systems, and the integration of green spaces can make transportation more efficient and environmentally friendly. Policy measures such as subsidies for low-emission vehicles, investments in sustainable infrastructure, and public awareness campaigns are essential to motivating society to adopt greener mobility solutions.

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## KEY TERMS:

**Decarbonization:** The process of reducing carbon dioxide emissions through transitioning to cleaner energy sources, such as renewable electricity, hydrogen, and sustainable biofuels, to achieve a low-carbon transport system.

**Electrification:** Adoption of electric-powered vehicles (EVs) and infrastructure, such as charging stations, to replace fossil fuel-powered transportation, thereby minimizing emissions.

**Sustainable Fuels:** Fuels derived from renewable sources, such as ethanol, biodiesel, and synthetic fuels, designed to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation compared to conventional fossil fuels.

**Modal Shift:** Transitioning passenger or freight transport from high-emission modes, like private cars or trucks, to more sustainable options, such as trains, public transport, or cycling, to optimize energy efficiency.

**Carbon Pricing:** Economic policies, such as carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems, that incentivize lower emissions by attaching a monetary cost to greenhouse gas outputs.

**Urban Mobility Planning:** Designing cities to promote sustainable transport, such as pedestrian-friendly areas, bike-sharing programs, and integrated multimodal networks.

**Green Supply Chain Logistics:** Strategies to reduce emissions in the transportation of goods, such as route optimization, low-emission vehicles, and smart warehousing technologies.

**Emission Standards:** Regulatory limits set by governments on the amount of greenhouse gases vehicles can emit, driving innovation in cleaner technologies.

**Smart Mobility:** Use of digital tools and data analytics to optimize transport systems, such as traffic management, ride-sharing platforms, and predictive maintenance for vehicles.

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## MAIN STAKEHOLDERS:

### European Union (EU):

**European Commission:** Drives EU policy on reducing transport emissions through initiatives like the Green Deal, Fit for 55, and REPowerEU. Develops regulations, funds research, and supports the transition to sustainable mobility technologies.

**Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE):** Oversees the development of sustainable transport policies, focusing on decarbonization, electrification, and infrastructure development for low-emission mobility.

**Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA):** Leads efforts to integrate climate goals into transport policies, including enforcing CO2 emission standards for vehicles and supporting alternative fuels.

**European Investment Bank (EIB):** Provides financing for sustainable transport projects, such as EV infrastructure, clean public transport, and hydrogen technologies.

**European Environment Agency (EEA):** Monitors and reports on transport emission data, assessing progress towards EU climate and sustainability targets.

**European Parliament:** Advocates for legislative measures to reduce transport emissions, including stricter vehicle standards, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable urban mobility plans. Engages in debates to ensure member state accountability.

**European Council:** Sets strategic priorities for transport decarbonization, aligning member states on initiatives such as sustainable fuels, carbon pricing, and cross-border electrification projects.

**National Governments:** Develop and implement national action plans for transport emissions reduction. Enforce EU regulations and lead initiatives in areas like urban planning, public transport modernization, and green vehicle subsidies.

**Private Sector:** Drives innovation in electric vehicles, sustainable fuels, and logistics efficiency. Invests in renewable energy infrastructure, modernizes fleets, and promotes shared mobility solutions to reduce transport emissions.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Organizations such as Transport & Environment advocate for ambitious policies, monitor progress, and provide research and recommendations for sustainable transport initiatives.

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## MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN:

The EU has implemented various measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector and promote sustainable mobility. Key initiatives include:

**Legislative Frameworks and Strategies:** The EU has introduced binding CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for cars, vans, and heavy-duty vehicles, requiring significant reductions in emissions over the next decade. The Green Deal and Fit for 55 package include policies to accelerate the adoption of clean vehicles, alternative fuels, and EV charging infrastructure. Additionally, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) mandates the deployment of sufficient recharging and refueling stations across the EU.

**Funding and Incentives:** Through programs like the Connecting Europe Facility and the Horizon Europe initiative, the EU provides substantial funding for sustainable transport projects, such as EV infrastructure, hydrogen technologies, and public transport modernization. National governments also offer subsidies and tax incentives for purchasing electric vehicles and adopting green transport solutions.

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The resources provided in this preparation module are by no means exhaustive; instead, they serve as a baseline minimum of knowledge to enable effective participation in the committee. While further research is always encouraged, it's important to note that, given the broad nature of the issue at hand, it can easily lead to an overwhelming amount of information and potentially send you down a rabbit hole.

To make the most of your research and position paper writing process, we encourage you to focus on identifying specific issues that need addressing. This approach will help streamline our discussions during the sessions and reduce the time spent deliberating on the problems themselves, allowing us to move more efficiently toward solutions. If you have any questions or need clarification along the way, we strongly encourage you to reach out to us. We're here to support you and help ensure that you feel confident and well-prepared.

Additionally, please remember that you will be evaluated partly based on the quality of your contributions, so your knowledge, as well as the position paper, rather than solely on the quantity of your input. Thorough preparation beforehand will make your participation during the iMEP sessions smoother and more effective.

That being said, we are truly excited to see the innovative and thoughtful ideas you will bring to the table. Your insights and dedication are what shape this committee. We look forward to reading your position papers, hearing your contributions, and working together to shape meaningful solutions. Let's make this session productive and inspiring!

**Disclaimer: Please note that any IC and OC writing beforehand is strictly prohibited!**

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