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Double collective passenger land transport to tackle climate change

As EU transport & environment ministers meet in Amsterdam the ECMF calls for a holistic vision in tackling climate change and calls for the doubling of collective passenger land transport to be a formal policy objective of the EU.

Brussels - As the EU Transport and Environment Ministers meet to discuss 'Green Mobility' in Amsterdam the [European Citizens Mobility Forum](#) (ECMF) calls for a holistic vision to reduce green house gases and tackle climate change. The ECMF urges EU decision makers to adopt the objective of doubling the use of collective land transport in the EU. This is the shortest and cheapest way for society to reduce the carbon footprint of passenger transport.

Calculations made by independent scientists showed that doubling the use of collective land transport modes in the EU will result in at least 500 million tonnes less CO₂ emitted by 2025 and 10% less car traffic less per year. For every European, it would represent only 1 more trip out of 20 made by bus or train instead of the private car.

Gesine Meissner, ALDE coordinator for the Transport Committee of the European Parliament, said "Decarbonising transport is a challenge one has to take up from many different angles, the development of cleaner vehicles or incentives through road pricing for example. But we should not forget obvious instruments like simply transporting passengers together instead of everyone using their private car. A very simple mean of increasing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions."

ECMF has articulated its vision in [a 10-year action programme](#) on doubling the use of collective land transport in the EU published in 2015. It proposes a set of measurable policy and business objectives and a list of clearly identified actions.

"The fight for climate change and citizens health starts at city level and in daily commuting." stated Karen Vancluysen, Polis Deputy Director. "Air quality and traffic congestion represent one of the biggest challenges for sustainable urban transport systems. In that perspective, not only a shift toward alternative fuels but also huge investments for integrated interchanges and smooth, secured and reliable public transportation systems are required. Across the European Union, mayors are fully committed to reduce CO₂ and other harmful pollutant emissions and already deployed comprehensive policies to achieve this. In that perspective, the ECMF' Action Programme articulates a comprehensive vision as to what would be required from the European and national perspective to fully reap the benefit of the current local strategies."

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The European Citizens' Mobility Forum (ECMF), created in 2014, is a structure open to all public and private stakeholders sharing the objective of doubling the use of collective land transport and unlocking the unused potential of collective road- and rail-based transport in the EU. It consists of representatives from the EU institutions, civil society researchers and stakeholders, trade associations and business representatives from the door-to-door collective land transport chain.

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