

Cosmin Boiangiu
Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union
Avenue de Cortenbergh 107
B-1000, Bruxelles

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Dear Mr. Boiangiu,

European local and regional authorities would like to bring to your attention the Revision of the Clean Vehicles Directive (2009/33), which sets targets for EU Member States to procure zero- and low-emission vehicles for public use.

City and regional transport authorities are committed to the promotion of clean vehicles, to support decarbonisation, improve air quality and livability of public space, and stimulate innovation and demand for clean technology.

The revision of the procurement rules for clean vehicles will play an important role in public transport fleet renewal (both in cities and rural areas), cleaner freight to meet the 2011 White Paper target of CO₂-free logistics in major urban areas by 2030, create a greater impact through the inclusion of public service contracts and encourage Member State regulation of private fleets.

During its upcoming Presidency, Romania will be presented with one of the most pressing issues the EU is facing, which is the decarbonisation of different sectors to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. While other sectors have reduced their climate impact, emissions from transport have steadily risen.¹

To ensure a cost-effective path towards achieving local and regional climate goals, a substantial and immediate deployment of zero-and low-emission vehicles will be needed at the beginning of the next decade. The renewal of public fleets brings huge numbers of new vehicles onto European streets each year – from buses to maintenance vehicles, from social services transport to office car pools. Currently, the large majority of these new vehicles are petrol or diesel driven – vehicles that will remain on our roads for the next 5-10 years, contributing further to CO₂ emissions, air and noise pollution.

For this reason, we urge you to strongly prioritise this file. Considering the last two progress reports during the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies, we believe that committing the capacity of the Working Party to adopt a quick position will be crucial in the coming month. The Clean Vehicles Directive would help create a regulatory framework with ambitious procurement targets that will accelerate the deployment of electric and other clean vehicles, and ensure that they are affordable to cities and communities across Europe.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, we remain at your disposal for further clarifications.

Yours sincerely:

¹ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/transport/term/term-briefing-2018>

Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General
EUROCITIES

Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General
Polis

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ICLEI



About the organisations:

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities, with over 140 members across 39 countries, representing more than 130 million people. We work in all areas of interest for cities, from culture to mobility, environment to social affairs, economic development to smart cities. We facilitate learning experiences between cities, and represent cities' interests towards the European Union. EURO CITIES is committed to working towards a common vision of a democratic, sustainable future in which all citizens can enjoy a good quality of life.

ICLEI is the leading global network of 1,500+ cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. Through our collective efforts, we impact more than 25 percent of the global urban population. Local and regional governments across the ICLEI network work alongside a diverse team of global experts in 22 offices active across 124 countries. Together, we address the local impacts of unprecedented global change, from climate change to urbanization, aiming for urban development to have the least possible impact on global systems and to build communities that are people-centered and equitable. ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a more just and sustainable world.

Polis is a network of 75 European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Our aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities. It also facilitates the dialogue between local and regional authorities and other actors of the sector such as industry, research centres and universities, and NGOs. Polis' participation in European projects allows the network to create a framework which facilitates dialogue and exchange between local authorities and the transport research community.