



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 18 September 2009

13310/09

**TRANS 334
MAR 120
AVIATION 133
ENV 577
ENER 297
IND 113**

REPORT

From : Presidency

To : COREPER/Council

No. Cion prop. : 11294/09 TRANS 257 AVIATION 96 MAR 96 ENV 457 ENER 234 IND 76

Subject : ***Preparation of the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 8 and 9 October 2009***

Communication from the Commission - A sustainable future for transport:

Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system

– Policy debate

Introduction

1. In 2001, the European Commission issued a White Paper¹ setting out the agenda for the European transport policy until 2010, which was extensively debated at the TTE Council of 26 March 2002. This White Paper underwent a mid-term review in 2006², examined by the Council at its meetings of 12 June and 12 October 2006.

Commission work

2. As the above 10-year period approaches its end, the European Commission decided to launch a reflection on the transport policies for the next decade, comprising external studies on the evaluation of past policies and future scenarios and consulted with experts and stakeholders through specialised Focus Groups and through a High Level Stakeholders' Conference which took place on 9-10 March 2009. The Commission also initiated a public consultation exercise which ends on 30 September 2009. The results of the consultation will be presented at a stakeholder conference in autumn 2009 and will be used for the preparation in 2010 of a White Paper which will set out the transport policy agenda for the next decade.
3. In this framework the Commission presented a Communication entitled "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system"³ in which it takes stock of the latest developments in the transport sector in recent years and prepares the grounds for later policy developments. In this Communication, the Commission identifies aging, migration and internal mobility, environmental challenges, the availability of energy resources, urbanisation and globalisation as the main trends and challenges the European transport policies should face in the next decades.

¹ White Paper: European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to decide (doc. 11932/01 TRANS 131 AVIATION 70 MAR 76).

² Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: "Keep Europe moving - Sustainable mobility for our continent - Mid-term review of the European Commission's 2001 Transport White Paper" (doc. 10954/06 TRANS 175).

³ Doc. 11294/09 TRANS 257 AVIATION 96 MAR 96 ENV 457 ENER 234 IND 76

4. Against this background, the Commission also identified seven policy fields for possible intervention: infrastructure, funding and pricing, technology, legislation, behaviour, coordinated action and the external dimension. However, the Commission Communication does not include a detailed programme of policy measures, but rather tries to identify a strategic vision for the future of transport and to stimulate further debate aimed at identifying possible policy options.

Work done by the Council preparatory bodies

5. Following discussions in the framework of the Working Party on Horizontal Issues on 17 July and 14 September 2009, the Presidency decided to hold a public policy debate on the Commission Communication at the TTE Council of 9 October 2009. During this debate the Ministers will be invited to reply to two questions which are contained in the annex to this report.

Conclusion

6. Coreper is invited to take note of this report, to endorse the questions in annex and to invite the TTE Council of 9 October 2009 to hold a public policy debate structured on the basis of the two questions annexed.

Commission Communication on the Future of Transport: Questions for policy debate

- 1) In its Communication on "the Future of Transport" the Commission identifies the following challenges for the future of the transport system: ageing, migrations, environmental pressures, increasing scarcity of fossil fuels, urbanisation, and globalisation.

Do the Ministers agree with the main challenges and their impact on sectors concerned as presented in the Commission's Communication?

The Commission's Communication anticipates major transformations and suggests possible responses.

What should be the level of ambition of future transport policies in order to address these challenges?

- 2) The Commission has identified three priorities in order to establish a sustainable future transport system that meets the economic, social and environmental needs of society, including tackling the long-term challenge of global climate change.

The priorities identified in the Communication are:

- An integrated transport system
- A technology-led transport system
- A user-friendly transport system.

Do you agree with these overall priorities and, if so, what do you consider to be the most appropriate policy measures/instruments at European level in order to reach the objectives set out?

Can you identify a concrete policy measure/instrument that you would consider as the most needed within the time horizon of the next ten years?