

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – DIRECTORATE FOR CONSULTATIVE WORK
COTER Commission and "Networks & Subsidiarity" Unit



QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ACTION PLAN ON URBAN MOBILITY
COM (2009) 490 final

Submitted for consultation of the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network
by Sir Albert Bore (UK/PSE)

Please complete and submit by **Friday 8 January 2010**. You can upload the completed questionnaires directly on the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network webpage (<http://subsidiarity.cor.europa.eu> – remember to be logged in). Alternatively, you can send them by email to subsidiarity@cor.europa.eu.

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BACKGROUND

The Urban Mobility Action Plan consists of a comprehensive support package aiming to provide local, regional and national authorities with incentives, support and tools to develop a culture of sustainable urban mobility in the EU, which fosters competitiveness, is environmentally friendly and promotes an inclusive and cohesive society. Urban mobility should not be seen in isolation, but should be addressed with the objectives of other community policies (cohesion, environment, growth and jobs) in mind.

The action plan includes short and medium term practical solutions in the form of 20 actions across 6 thematic areas¹. Actions are to be launched until 2012 and will be based on partnership with and voluntary commitment by local, regional and national authorities in cooperation with the European Commission in selected areas. They will be implemented through existing EU programmes and instruments. The European Commission underlines that local, regional and national authorities will be free to make use of the support and tools offered under the action plan and that all actions will be implemented through existing programmes and instruments.

Please complete the questions overleaf:

¹ Promotion of integrated policies, citizens' rights, green urban transport, funding, experience and knowledge sharing, optimisation of urban mobility.

A. Subsidiarity & Proportionality:
1. <i>Given the responsibilities/competences of local and regional authorities in your country, which do you think should be the role of the EU as regards achieving sustainable urban mobility?</i>
<i>If possible, provide reasons for your answer.</i>
<p>The EU should support positive experience exchange among various cities and also grant financial means for its implementation.</p> <p>Citizens and their representatives often do not accept innovations easily - they prefer habitual behavior. Good applicable examples along with some financial support for their implementation could change stereotypes for the better.</p> <p>We prefer bottom up system.</p>
2. <i>Do you consider the proposed actions appropriate for achieving the objective of sustainable urban mobility in the EU in a satisfactory manner?</i>
<i>If possible, provide reasons for your answer.</i>
<p>The proposed actions should include not only urban but also immediate neighboring regions.</p> <p>Cities and their neighboring regions suffer from densely build-up suburban areas which is a burden for their transport systems. Public transportation depends on public financing. In order to ensure their traffic carrying capacity, the cities often subsidize public transportation to their neighboring regions.</p> <p>The proposed actions should include city logistics to a greater extent.</p> <p>City logistics is one of the suitable tools for limiting excessive goods transportation.</p>

B. Links with other EU policies:
3. <i>Do you consider that the proposed actions would contribute to higher economic, social and territorial cohesion within urban and peri-urban centres?</i>
Definitely, corresponding and at the same time good quality transport services influence all aspects of life within urban and peri-urban areas.
4. <i>Do you consider that the proposed actions would contribute to achieving the EU's energy and climate change objectives?</i>
It is very probable. Lowering transport emissions has already positively affected environment in various cities. Energy efficient vehicles contribute to more efficient traffic flow.
5. <i>Would you support the introduction of an urban mobility dimension in Sustainable Energy Plans to be prepared by cities within the context of the Covenant of Mayors?</i>

Yes, energy costs of public transportation belong inseparably among these plans.

C. Additional action needed:

6. *Do you consider that there are other or additional lines of action relating to urban mobility that have not been proposed by the Action Plan?*

Facilities and tools for effective “last mile” transportation could be discussed in more detail. The Action Plan should include city logistics to a greater extent.

7. *Would you support the establishment of a specific financial instrument encouraging urban and metropolitan areas to set up integrated urban mobility plans? Should the access to such financial instruments be subject to conditions?*

Yes, elaboration of such plans is financially very challenging; their proceeding requires stakeholder involvement. One of the conditions for accessing these financial means should include the obligation of cities and regions to follow these plans on a long term basis and to publicize impacts of implemented measures.

8. *Would you support the extension of the scope of the Action Plan by funding incentives and/or an award scheme? The CoR opinion on the Green Paper² suggested the equivalent of an EU-wide "Blue flag Scheme" to be awarded on the basis of specific indicators to urban areas with low levels of pollution and congestion.*

Funding incentives yes, an award scheme should not be a priority in our opinion; initial conditions of individual states or regions should also be taken into account.

9. *What would your priorities for action/implementation be?*

Our priority is to see concrete results of these actions.

D. Best practices and experience:

10. *Has your municipality/city or region (or the constituent members of your association) already implemented measures or initiatives helping to achieve sustainable urban mobility in line with the Action Plan (e.g. implementation of urban mobility plans, passenger rights in urban transport, rules and best practice regarding access to green zones, information exchange platforms etc)?*

² CdR 236/2007 final.

Please provide a short description of these measures or initiatives.

Yes, an integrated public transportation system with unified tariffs has been successfully introduced in our region (incl. trains, trams, buses and trolleybuses), passenger rights and duties in public transportation have been established. There is also a pedestrian zone retaining system in operation. Panels with real time connection information have gradually been installed at all traffic junctions. The City of Brno is a member of the CIVITAS initiative; special minibuses for handicapped will be purchased, a new public traffic information center will be established - all thanks to the CIVITAS ELAN project.

E. Better regulation:

11. Do you feel that the impact assessment accompanying the Action Plan is comprehensive and takes into account aspects particular to local and regional authorities?

Not completely, these plans will always reflect diverse local legislative and existing conditions. Willingness of politicians to pass and enforce even unpopular measures also plays key role.

12. Do you feel that the implementation of the Action Plan will result in increased financial or administrative costs for your city, local authority or region?

Very probably, introducing new solutions always requires greater efforts as well as a higher level of financial and personal engagement.