



INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE TRANSPORT MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY

The Transport Ministers of the European Union held an informal meeting in A Coruña, under the presidency of the Minister of Public Works and Transport, centered on the challenge faced by the Administrations to improve sustainability and safety of urban and metropolitan mobility. The Action Plan on Urban Mobility, adopted by the European Commission on 30 September 2009, has placed urban mobility as one of EU transport policies. In this context, the Ministers discussed the objectives and elements of the Action Plan on Urban Mobility.

In his speech, the President highlighted that the network of cities and metropolitan areas is the essential core of territorial organisation, since that is where most of the population, jobs, economic decision-making centres, social services and innovation are concentrated. He also emphasised the role of cities and metropolitan areas as the driving force of social, cultural and economic development. He also mentioned the main impacts of unrestrained growth: congestion, atmospheric and acoustic pollution, road



accidents, deterioration of the urban landscape, high cost of living, etc., which reduce the quality of life in cities.

During the debate, the Delegations addressed the following points in depth:

- **The role of EU authorities and the Council of Transport Ministers** in fostering measures to improve the sustainability of urban mobility whilst maintaining the **basic principle of subsidiarity**.
- The need to **introduce sustainable urban mobility plans** in the framework of a **co-ordinated policy between local, regional, national and EU Administrations**, aimed at promoting **increased integration** of transport infrastructure and services planning into territorial and urban planning, and in rural areas.
- **Finding alternatives to the use of private vehicles**, in particular through **public transport** and **non-motorised vehicles**.
- Improving and standardising information on mobility in European cities, emphasising the role which an **EU Observatory, backed by national and/or regional observatories**, could play in compiling and disseminating information, **best practices** and successful experiences.
- Including **improved road safety** in initiatives aimed at achieving more efficient, punctual and clean transport.
- Developing information and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at **changing the behaviour patterns of citizens**, increasing the **protection of vulnerable users** -pedestrians and cyclists- and **accessibility for people with reduced mobility**.
- Innovative programmes and new technologies, promoting **intelligent transport systems** and **clean, efficient and safe vehicles** (elec-



tric and hybrid plug-in, etc.), as well as improving transport infrastructures and material.

To conclude the debate, the Presidency announced the intention to prepare a **Conclusions project** on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility, for the purpose of submitting it to **June's Council of Ministers** for consideration.

At national level, the Minister of Public Works and Transport informed that he will take the conclusions of this debate to a future **Sectoral Conference on Transport**, which will be attended by the Autonomous Communities and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), in order to design a framework for strategic action in the area of sustainable urban mobility, based on the guidelines set by the European Union.