

Making the Common Transport Policy Work

FACT FILE

The White Paper focuses on climate change — which is a major challenge particularly for the transport Sector. But it is not the only environmental problem from transport. Air pollution, noise, waste, land take, habitat loss all remain important environmental problems and are largely ignored by the paper.

Pricing for all modes needs to be fairer and relate to all the costs they cause. The differences in national transport prices will become fully evident to citizens only with the arrival of the Euro. Ensuring all transport modes are priced fairly to include all costs will improve the economic performance of the sector.

Managing demand growth does not require command and control policies. Rather it is compatible with the operation of free markets and could improve EU competitiveness, with less transport being required for more GDP.

The principal goal of European transport policy should be the decoupling of transport growth from economic growth.

Heads of state and Heads of Government underlined the importance of decoupling at the Gothenburg Summit. The Common Transport Policy needs to reflect this.

The Common Transport Policy White Paper adopted by the European Commission fails to completely address the demands for sustainability made by EU leaders at Gothenburg; it lacks a clear vision for a *genuinely* new approach and sufficient individual policy measures to deliver them.

The Council of Ministers and the European Parliament now have an opportunity to add the missing elements to this ten year programme and redirect European Transport Policy towards sustainability. A **genuinely** different approach would be to shift away from simply attempting to reduce the negative impacts of transport, towards a more integrated approach.

This approach would aim to improve the service the transport sector provides - in terms of access to goods and services - rather than increasing transport or mobility *per se*.

This requires three changes to the draft Common Transport Policy White Paper:

- ⇒ **A headline objective of decoupling transport growth from economic growth to be set as the main goal.**
- ⇒ **Policies which maximise the benefits of technology, modal shift and demand management to be prioritised.**
- ⇒ **A requirement for economic, social and environmental objectives to be integrated in the definition of transport policies.** Concentrating on one objective at the expense of the others is not an option.

The Treaty of European Union has been revised to ensure that the objectives of the European Community include sustainable development, environmental protection, and improving environmental quality. Since this time sustainable development has increasingly been seen as clearly having economic, social and environmental components. This also applies to EU transport policy.