

Paris, December 21, 2021

European Commission
Commissioner for the EU Green Deal
Mr Frans Timmermans
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Subject: Public transport authorities and the transition to zero-emission bus fleets

Dear mr Timmermans,

Climate change mitigation efforts in Europe are showing first results with a steady, overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU in recent years. In contrast to all other sectors EU's transport sector has not followed this general trend, with transport related greenhouse gas emissions increasing since 2013. While the rate of increase slows down, a reversal of the upward trend is not yet in sight.

To achieve an appropriate coordination through a joint consideration of both zero-emission decarbonisation and air quality topics at all possible levels EMTA strives to contribute to an accelerated transition to clean and zero emission bus fleets.

European Metropolitan Transport Authorities (EMTA) is a pan-European association that unites the leaders of 30 of the largest public metropolitan transport authorities in Europe that cater for quality public transport services in a sustainable, energy efficient and inclusive manner.

Acknowledging public transport has a pioneer role to play, in the wake of COP26 EMTA published a report in which it explores challenges of decarbonisation from a public sector perspective. In this paper (in annex) EMTA identifies the main determinants that successfully contribute to the transition to 'green' bus fleets.

EMTA seeks to acknowledge the evident interlinkage between climate change and the air quality debate by recognizing this two-part objective of decarbonisation of transport in the global fight against climate change and the endeavours in the major metropolitan areas in Europe to improve air quality for better living conditions of citizens.

Although transport authorities - and their regions and cities as owners of the public transport systems in Europe - are committed to playing their part in decarbonisation, with many having established decarbonisation objectives and timelines more ambitious than the targets defined by the Clean Vehicle Directive, great challenges remain that limit public transport authorities' ability to deliver.

EMTA appreciates to discuss in a meeting (in person or online) findings and insights this research from a major metropolitan transport authority's perspective and explore the further potential to capitalize on improvements that can be made.

.../...

With respect to the proposal for a sharpened steering toolkit that is embedded in the proposals on New Urban Mobility Framework, this would greatly help transport authorities to mirror the actions plans they have anticipated.

We look forward to your response and hope we can set a date to meet and discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Dorthe Noehr Pedersen
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