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PRESS RELEASE

Public transport authorities in EMTA sign a declaration of intent on decarbonization of public transport

In the presence of Mme Elisabeth Borne, Minister for Transport in the French national government, members of the European Metropolitan Transport Authorities gathering to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the association today signed a Declaration of Intent on the promotion of cleaner public transport fleets in their cities. Mme Valérie Péresse, president of Region Île de France signed the declaration on behalf of Ile de France Mobilités side by side with the President of the EMTA association, Dr. Jon Lamonte, Chief Executive of Transport for Greater Manchester.

With this declaration, leaders of the 26 members of EMTA acknowledge the pressing need to tackle harm coming from traffic and transport running on carbon fueled propulsion. The air and noise pollution of cities causes adverse health issues for millions of citizens and a shortened life expectancy.

Public transport authorities in cities and their metropolitan areas therefore recognize that they have a key role to play in addressing the challenges of air pollution from tailpipe exhaust and noise. In the declaration, the signatories call on their EU institutions and the governments of member states to take action and support the transport authorities in their strive to accelerate the inception and transition to implement zero-emission vehicles by sharing best practices on procurement, innovative expertise and financial resources.

Leading the transition by city region authorities, the use of carbonized fuel in urban transport has to be turned around, driving forward clean mobility and accelerating the transition to electric and low emission vehicles. Contributing to a cleaner urban environment makes cities more attractive places to live, work and visit and is a major goal for this Association. Therefore, EMTA members seek to encourage a healthy life style and reduce their dependency on motorized transport.

The signatories state that sharing knowledge and best practice is pivotal to help achieve the goals of the Paris climate agreement. Further, sustaining a high level of connectivity and strengthening the competitiveness cities needs a transition plan to achieve zero emission and promoting active travel in cities by biking facilities. This declaration from member cities across Europe makes a strong unifying call for action - to decarbonize public transport as soon as we can.

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