Social dimension of the future mobility

EESC's perspective

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EESC's overarching social goals in the area of transport

- A dynamic and ambitious policy which includes tackling congestion and lack of access which can isolate individuals – especially elderly or disabled people – in their homes.

- Involving civil society actors - the field of transport requires stronger and more inclusive involvement of civil society in both policy making and policy implementation.

Recent works of the EESC on the topic

- TEN/765 - Revision of the Directive on intelligent transport systems
- TEN/766 - New EU urban mobility framework
- TEN/774 - The importance of public transport for Europe's Green Recovery
- TEN/795 – The transition to a long term sustainable transport system

2050 – prospects for transport (ITF)

- Transport demand will be more than double

- Urbanisation will increase demand for sustainable transport around the world

- Demand for regional and intercity travel is set to grow by up to 114%, with strong growth in emerging economies in particular

Recent developments

- 25th April The Council voted on the chunk of the'Fit for 55' package which in general will broaden the scope of the ETS system into transport system.

- 28th March The Council agreed to improve the alternative fuel infrastructure

- The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) revision.

- Urban Mobility Framework

- European Pillar of Social Rights

    *Everyone has the right to access essential services of good quality, including water, sanitation, energy, **transport**, financial services and digital communications. Support for access to such services shall be available for those in need.*

The EESC calls for mobility to be recognised as an individual right and as a public good

Main themes/priorities

- Balance
- Accessibility
- Adaptability
- Policy creation/planning process

Balance

The transition to a long-term sustainable transport system must be carried out in a way that makes citizens and business buy into (this process).

It is important to pay due attention to the important social consequences of transforming transport and to make certain that negative effects on workers are avoided. Adequate solutions to these matters are important for the acceptance of the transition by the workforce, the general public and business.

If that does not happen, there is a serious risk of not only failure, but at worst of social unrest.

It is necessary to strike the right balance between environmental protection and inclusiveness of urban mobility. The need to reduce emissions should not lead to reduced mobility and transport exclusion.

Accessibility

Socially sustainable transport must be accessible, inclusive, safe and affordable to avoid mobility poverty. It must respond to the specific needs of different groups, for instance women. Accessibility means, inter alia, adequate territorial planning, including regarding the interface between agglomerations and surrounding rural areas and with due regard to dedicated solutions for elderly people and for persons with reduced mobility (moving walkways, hill trains, etc.).

Citizens both in agglomerations and rural areas must be granted accessibility and mobility at a reasonable cost and under good general conditions.

European Economic
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Public transport

Recognises that public transport is a significant part of the answer to Europe's green post-pandemic recovery, both providing an answer to climate concerns and contributing to quality of life and access to economic, social and cultural life.

Ambitious action to boost public transport, especially as it has a particular impact on improving equal opportunities.

The EESC believes that public transport has a key task in the transformation process. Its inclusive nature makes it possible to achieve both environmental and social objectives. It can be complemented by micromobility solutions.

Pricing of public transport must be affordable and fair. As a matter of public service, public transport must not be based on profitability alone, nor must it lead to transport exclusion. This implies a socially justifiable need to also maintain unprofitable connections. This may call for combustion engine propulsion to maintain an adequate service level.

Adaptability (flexibility)

Measures are feasible and seen as feasible and that the right signals go out on the market.

Credibility will also be essential for people to be ready to modify habits and lifestyle in a way that promotes the transition.

Awareness-raising is important, as well as following up on such activities to ensure their impact. Civil society organisations and relevant stakeholders are important here.

It may be necessary for practical and feasibility reasons to accept that one size does not necessarily fit all and that it may be necessary to be flexible and accept different solutions to the extent that these do not in real life disturb the functioning of the internal market
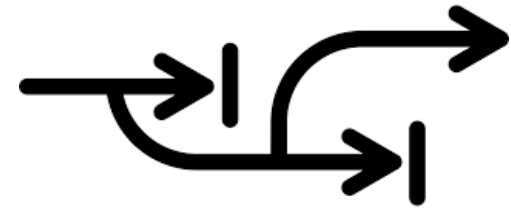
Policy creation/planning process

The EESC underscores the importance of wide consultations with all concerned and of awareness-raising at all stages of the transition.

The transformation will not succeed without employee participation, currently in short supply in the sector. Social dialogue and collective bargaining are key in this regard.

Concrete and coordinated plans must be made and be subject to a social dialogue between the parties concerned on how to enable the workforce to adapt to new competence requirements and avoid transitory unemployment.

Creation of sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPs) and sustainable urban logistics plans (SULPs) as well as spatial planning that extends beyond urban boundaries.

International cooperation and networks.

Working conditions and employment prospects

Making the sector more attractive to tackle labour shortages

In this context attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring satisfactory working conditions and ensuring fair pay and working conditions in the sector, including for platform workers.

Social dialogue for improvement of the employment conditions.

Commission's proposal to improve the conditions of work performed through online platforms

The importance of training and lifelong learning is underscored, in particular as a means to enable the workforce to keep up with new competence requirements due to the green transition, including digitalisation of the sector.

Thank you!