

Freedom of movement and sustainable mobility

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening virtually on 11-12 June 2021:

Acknowledges that:

- freedom of movement in the European Union, which was undermined during the Coronavirus pandemic, must more than ever be guaranteed and enhanced by a policy of sustainable mobility and carbon-free modes of transport;
- transport is responsible for almost 30% of the European Union's total CO2 emissions. Of these emissions, 72% come from road transport; the European Union is committed within the framework of the European Green Deal to reduce 90% of greenhouse gas emissions from transport by 2050;
- more or less significant delays have been observed in: the construction of large battery factories and the transition of car manufacturers to electric or rechargeable hybrid vehicles; the development of rapid charging infrastructures for electric vehicles on major roads; interconnected rail networks to develop piggybacking and river transport routes as alternatives to road transport;
- taxation of kerosene fuel at the European level: the current price level of emission allowances for the aviation sector on the European carbon market (ETS) is very insufficient in relation to the cost of the negative external climate created by air transport;
- the fight against pollution from maritime transport in ports, starting with the lack of decarbonated energy supply for ships at berth;
- rapid technological progress has been observed in: the efficiency of renewable energies, their lower cost and their complementarity with the expected growth of vehicles powered by non-fossil fuels; batteries, their increasing density for lower weight, lower cost per kWh, and the increasing maturity of recycling processes; the storage of electricity distributed in electric vehicles, making it possible to contribute to the regulation of the network (Vehicle2Grid and Virtual Power Plant).
- the growing awareness of European citizens that the challenges of energy transition and the fight against global warming are inseparable and call for a coordinated, determined, rapid and wide-ranging response at European level to change our modes of transport and our behaviour toward sustainable mobility;
- the current regulation favours direct electrification and is not open for alternative technologies such as clean hydrogen or carbon neutral fuels.

Resolution:

Freedom of movement
and sustainable mobility

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

1

Expresses an ambitious vision that:

- the European Union must guarantee and reaffirm the importance of freedom of movement in order to develop the mobility of European citizens;
- the European regions must be accessible and opened up, which implies better maintained and extended road, river and rail networks, and that access not be limited to the major routes;
- whenever possible traffic should be reduced, and the shift to greener modes of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport should be encouraged. In addition, mobility pricing should be considered, implemented in a fiscally neutral manner, so that costs of mobility are borne by those who cause them as well as incentives are created for cost-saving and responsible action;
- the public investment strategies must give priority to the synergy between the development of renewable energies and carbon-free modes of transport, in particular by decentralising energy production and consumption, developing distributed storage and its interconnection with electricity supply needs through regulated and intelligent networks such as TEN-E (Trans-European Networks for Energy);
- the European Union assures that European money does not finance the extension or maintenance of high-carbon infrastructure;
- the European Union must strongly support investment in research and development of new generation batteries, the construction of giant battery factories and the transformation of European car manufacturers toward emission-free engines;
- a sustainable mobility policy must promote individual freedom as well as collective responsibility, and must give priority to: the quality of public transport in urban areas; an extension of the responsibilities of the European Railway Agency so that it can more effectively coordinate the negotiation and development of the European high-speed railway network; increased investments for development of a European railway infrastructure; the gradual decarbonisation of long-distance means of transport;
- the European Union should strengthen its support for clean hydrogen technologies;
- the European Union should design its climate regulations more open for alternative technologies such as hydrogen and carbon neutral fuels, also in the transport sector;
- sustainable mobility is also inextricably linked to spatial planning, such as the design and location of building developments for housing, workplaces, services and cultural activities, as well as of footpaths, cycle paths, public transport stops, parking spaces, etc. Therefore, all spatial plans should include the facilities needed for enabling

Resolution:

Freedom of movement
and sustainable mobility

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

2

sustainable and accessible mobility or at least lay down the criteria for their construction.

Calls on the ALDE Party, its Bureau and its member organisations:

- to promote these proposals on all occasions in national parliaments, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council;
- to integrate these proposals into our European programme, in the framework of the "Conference on the Future of Europe" from January 2021 and in preparation for the European Parliament elections of 2024.

Resolution:

Freedom of movement
and sustainable mobility

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

3