



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

## Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update  
**25.06.10**

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## Meeting of the Transport Council

*The European Transport Council met in Luxembourg on 24 June. The main points on the agenda were the EU-2020 strategy, the European Commission's action plan on urban mobility, adoption by the Council of the second stage EU-US air services agreement, the follow-up to the volcano ash cloud crisis and the report on security scanners.*

### **EU-2020 strategy**

Ministers discussed the EU2020 Strategy proposed in March by the European Commission. The objective of the strategy is twofold: to exit the crisis and to prepare the EU economy for the challenges of the next decade. Europe 2020 sets out a strategy to achieve high levels of employment, a low carbon economy, higher productivity and increased social cohesion. This will be done through concrete actions at both EU and national levels by stressing the need to modernise Europe's transport system. The strategy explicitly recognises the important role of transport in making the economy function, re-gain strength and be able to respond to new political challenges.

### **Commission action plan on urban mobility**

The Council discussed the action plan on urban mobility presented by the European Commission in September 2009. By means of a broad stakeholder consultation process following the publication of the Green Paper "Towards a new culture for urban mobility" in 2007, 20 short-term actions were identified with clear EU added value for implementation by the Commission in the field of urban transport. These actions support and complement local initiatives to improve the traffic situation in urban areas and help mitigate the negative impacts of urban transport on the climate, the environment, and citizens' health.

The action plan on urban mobility facilitates city efforts aimed at:

- Improving the quality of public transport
- Reducing air pollution
- Addressing the transport needs of citizens with reduced mobility
- Testing and implementing new technologies and novel concepts for urban transport
- Making better use of existing transport infrastructure
- Rebalancing the different transport modes such as private car use, public transport, walking and cycling.

More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/urban\\_mobility/action\\_plan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/urban_mobility/action_plan_en.htm)



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### **Follow-up to the volcano ash cloud crisis**

The Council reviewed the actions undertaken at EU level to alleviate the consequences of the eruption of the Eyjafjalla volcano in Iceland in April 2010. The extraordinary Transport Council of 4 May had agreed conclusions and the European Commission will now report on the implementation and the progress made.

More information: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/ash\\_cloud\\_crisis\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/ash_cloud_crisis_en.htm)

### **Security scanners**

The European Commission issued on 15 June 2010 a communication of the use of security scanners at EU airports at the request of the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission will now present the report to the Transport Council and seek the views of the ministers in the light of the factual information gathered in the report.

More information: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/security/security\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/security/security_en.htm)

## **Commission and U.S. agree to cooperate on civil aviation research and development**



The European Commission and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have officially concluded negotiations for the establishment of a Memorandum of Cooperation in civil aviation research and development. The two delegations, led by Hank Krakowski, FAA Chief Operating Officer, and Daniel Calleja, European Commission's Director of Air Transport, met in Madrid, hosted by the EU Spanish Presidency. The negotiating parties initialled the Memorandum and a first technical Annex promoting interoperability between their respective air traffic management (ATM) modernisation programmes: SESAR and NextGen.

The Memorandum will enable the EU and the US to jointly pursue their common objective to develop and deploy greener and more efficient air transport systems through a legally binding cooperation framework, based on commonly agreed reciprocity principles. Under the Memorandum the two parties will be able to address through cooperative activities any research and development issues in civil aviation such as: safety, security, environment,



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performance, alternative fuels, aircraft design, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), sub-orbital airplanes, satellite-based communications and related ATM applications, etc.

The Commission will now propose the text for formal adoption to the Council and the European Parliament for approval of its signature, in view of its entry into force in early 2011.