





24 October 2022

Cc: Commissioners Breton, Kyriakides, Sinkevičius and Vălean

Dear Vice President Timmermans,

We - please see the logos above - are a wide range of stakeholders urging the European Commission to include a sales target for zero emission urban buses in the forthcoming proposal on CO₂ standards for new heavy-duty vehicles.

A zero emission sales target for urban buses is necessary to meet demand for these vehicles from Europe's cities and towns, to clean up urban air, and to put buses on a trajectory compatible with EU climate targets. Crucially, we ask the Commission to propose a target for **all new urban buses sales to be zero emission from 2027**.

The European urban bus fleet emits somewhere in the region of 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually¹ and also impacts air quality. There is a highly effective way to clean up urban buses: to renew existing fleets with zero emission buses, which use battery electric or hydrogen technology.

Around 20 major European cities including Barcelona, Berlin, Madrid, Rome and Warsaw have pledged to only buy zero emission buses from 2025.² These cities will join a similar number already only procuring zero emission buses - a group that includes all Dutch cities, Denmark's six largest municipalities, Hamburg and London, among others. Leading cities are ditching fossil fuels fast, and want more zero emission buses as soon as possible. Some traditional bus-makers are stepping up too, with Daimler and MAN for example pledging that all their new urban buses will be zero emission by 2030.³

¹ UNFCCC (2019). GHG data from UNFCCC. [Link](#).

² Please see the European signatories to C40's [Green & Healthy Streets Declaration](#): Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Birmingham, Copenhagen, Heidelberg, Liverpool, London, Madrid, Greater Manchester, Milan, Moscow, Oslo, Oxford, Paris, Rome, Rotterdam, and Warsaw.

³ Daimler (2022). Daimler Buses to offer CO₂-neutral vehicles in every segment by 2030 – dual-track strategy based on batteries and hydrogen (2 May). [Link](#). MAN (2022). Presentation by Alexander Vlaskamp, CEO of MAN Truck & Bus SE, at the IAA International Press Workshop (28 June). [Link](#).

As a result, zero emission bus sales are growing. They accounted for 23% of new urban bus registrations in 2021, up from 16% in 2020 and 12% in 2019.⁴ This strong growth rate is good news, and shows a rapid transition to zero emission is possible.

However, **without action at EU level, demand for zero emission urban buses will not be matched by supply**. This would jeopardise the commitments of leading cities and expose EU citizens to air pollution for longer. **Constrained by a lack of availability, or prices that are too high due to insufficient zero emission bus supply, cities will be forced to keep buying combustion engine buses.**

That is why we - cities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders - ask the European Commission to include a sales target for all new urban buses to be zero emission by 2027 in its forthcoming proposal. We express our support for this call with the inclusion of our logos above.

Yours sincerely,

The signatories below

Supporting this letter by the addition of their logos are:

The **cities** of Barcelona, Cluj-Napoca, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Malaga, Milan, Palma, Paris, Rotterdam, Seville and Valencia

City-focused organisations, C40, the Clean Cities Campaign and Energy Cities

Health organisation, the European Respiratory Society, **international non-profit**, Climate Group / EV100, and the **public transport company** of Malaga, Empresa Malagueña de Transportes, SAM.

European environmental civil society organisations, the European Environmental Bureau, and Transport & Environment.

National environmental civil society organisations, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Belgium; Ecodes, Spain; EKO-UNIA, Poland; Focus Association for sustainable development, Slovenia; Fundacja Promocji Pojazdów Elektrycznych / Electric Vehicle Promotion Foundation, Poland; Green Transition Denmark; Levegő Munkacsoport / Clean Air Action Group, Hungary; the Polish Ecological Club (Mazovian and Pomeranian branches), Respire, France; VCD, Germany; VCOE, Austria; ZERO, Portugal; 2Celsius, Romania.

⁴ T&E (2022). Cities are buying more electric buses, but an EU deadline is needed (18 July). [Link](#).