

# Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system

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The Council held a **debate on the White Paper on transport** issued by the Commission in March. Ministers were invited to respond to a questionnaire drawn up by the presidency, focusing on the overall target, the benchmark goals and the initiatives for implementing them, set out in the White Paper.

Member States **generally welcomed the White Paper** as a very comprehensive document which contributes to achieving the Union's environmental goals, completing the internal market and tackling dependence on oil.

However, in the opinion of many delegations, the **60% reduction objective** is highly ambitious and should be considered an **indicative target**, not a binding one. In addition, in order to maintain the Union's competitiveness, similar commitments should be sought at international level. Moreover, several delegations underscored the **need to adjust policy measures to the specific situations in different parts of the Union** or, more particularly, the need to tackle the infrastructure development disparities between different Member States.

**Key priorities** highlighted by delegations in their oral and written contributions include: (i) support to research, innovation and new technologies; (ii) the interconnection of transport networks across the Union and the creation of a homogeneous multimodal trans-European transport network; (iii) the completion of the single European market in the field of transport; (iv) the internalisation of external costs in all modes of transport; (v) the development of new financing mechanisms, road safety, and the promotion of multimodal freight corridors and of full modal integration.

Some Member States also stressed that the **economic impact and the financial consequences of the proposed initiatives** needed to be carefully assessed.

The Commission is invited to take the results of these discussions into account when further elaborating the initiatives to create a sustainable transport system.