

Deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure

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The Council heard a presentation by the Commission of its recent "Clean power for transport" initiative and held an exchange of views. The goal of the initiative is to break the oil dependence of transport and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport by accelerating the market uptake of alternative fuels and vehicles adapted to their use.

In the debate at the Council meeting, ministers generally **welcomed the initiative and acknowledged the need for harmonisation and standardisation.**

Many delegations, however, voiced **concerns about the proposed target numbers of recharging or refuelling points, the financing of the proposed measures and the deadlines for implementation.**

It was stressed that **Member States needed flexibility for implementation.**

There were also **questions about standards and technology, which is still evolving.**

Moreover, a number of Member States also highlighted the **maritime dimension of the initiative.**

The Council's preparatory bodies will pursue the examination of the proposal in the light of the remarks made by the ministers.