

THE MINISTER

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*Speech, Danish minister for transport, Henrik Dam Kristensen
IRU/EU Conference "Efficient solutions for making road transport greener"
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The spoken word applies

Introduction

Thank you for inviting me here today, to talk about the Danish EU Presidency plans.

Road transport is a flexible and easy way to transport goods in Europe. It helps tie European markets together, and will continue to play a central role in the future.

Although improvements have taken place, road transport still accounts for the majority of emissions in the transport sector. It is therefore important, that we continue to focus on making road transport more sustainable.

This conference is a great chance to focus on the issue and to bring together industry, politicians and transport stakeholders.

It is important that we share our ideas and experiences and discuss transport solutions that benefit the EU as a whole.

Greener road transport in general

For us to move towards a greener road transport system, we need to focus on two major aspects:

We must ensure, that our infrastructure is modern and efficient.

Secondly, we must promote transport solutions, that help make road transport more sustainable.

During the Danish EU Presidency we will focus on several initiatives that address these aspects.

The revision of the TEN-T guidelines

When it comes to promoting modern and efficient infrastructure, the TEN-T program is a cornerstone in the EU transport policy, because it focuses on projects that have an EU-added value.

It is one of our best tools for creating an integrated transport network.

One example, that shows the importance of the TEN-T program, is the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link between Denmark and Germany. In Denmark, we



would not be able to finance the link on our own, without the support of the TEN-T.

When the Fehmarn Belt fixed link opens for traffic in 2020 it will make the transport connections between Scandinavia and Continental Europe more direct. The transport corridor between Copenhagen and Hamburg will be shorter by 130 kilometres.

As a consequence, the environmental impact, and the cost of transporting goods, will be reduced. This will benefit European companies, economies and societies in general.

In sum, the TEN-T program enables us to focus on projects, that contribute to the development of an integrated European transport network.

During the Danish EU Presidency The revision of the TEN-T guidelines is one of the top priorities. It is my ambition to bring the negotiations of the TEN-T guidelines as far as possible under our Presidency.

Galileo

The Galileo satellite navigation system will also be a priority for the Danish EU Presidency.

Today, satellite navigation plays an essential role for European societies, as well as for road transport.

When the Galileo system is completed in 2020 it will provide better and more stable satellite navigation. Galileo will contribute to efficient road transport solutions such as more direct navigation and intelligent transport systems.

During our Presidency the financial and administrative framework for the Galileo program is being negotiated. It is our ambition to establish firm frames for the future project management of Galileo.

Eco-Combis

A practical and concrete step towards greener road transport is the use of Eco-Combis. In Denmark, Eco-Combis have been in use since 2008 as part of a trial project.

The Danish Eco-Combi trial has shown, that two Eco-Combis can replace three regular road trains.

Because of this, they help reduce transport costs and CO₂ emissions. Today, after three years of the Danish trial, these benefits have resulted in a widespread support for Eco-Combis in Denmark.

The larger load capacity of Eco-Combis make them ideal for long distance transport of goods. This is a strong reason for promoting them on a European scale



During our EU Presidency we wish to promote the use of Eco-Combis in Europe. This would benefit European industries and economies, as well as it would be a practical and concrete step towards greener road transport.

Final remarks

It is important that we make use of the advantages of each mode of transport.

In addition to the services that road transport offers to our markets and economies, a well developed road system is also important in order to take full advantage of other modes of transport.

Promoting greener road transport is therefore a central issue and it is high on the agenda of the Danish EU Presidency.

We have a busy program ahead of us and many important questions to discuss.

Holding the EU Presidency can be a big challenge, especially for a small country like Denmark.

We have prepared well, and have a solid platform to further develop an integrated European transport system.

As President of the Transport Council, I will work hard to ensure, that we use this platform to create real results that benefit Europe.