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Transport Policy during the Swedish Presidency of the EU

A future transport policy – towards an eco-efficient economy

For the development of a sustainable and eco-efficient transport system in Europe Sweden will prioritize three issues:

- the EU Transport Policy after 2010
- efficient freight transport logistics
- new technologies/ITS

The new White Paper on the European transport policy for the next decade is currently under preparation by the Commission and a Communication on *the Future of European Transport Policy* was presented in June 2009. Sweden will devote considerable efforts to process this highly important dossier. We need one transport system for Europe where the different transport modes are more closely interlinked. The European transport system must be coherent, efficient and we must support the introduction and use of new technologies.

Both logistics and new technologies/ITS can be useful to lower the burden on the climate and the environment and at the same time contribute to reduced costs for industry and society. It is of great importance that the potential of the existing transport systems can be fully exploited by improved logistics.

It is also important that we speed up the introduction of already existing technical solutions in order to reach ambitious goals.

Meetings in the transport area

The Swedish Presidency is planning for two Council meetings dealing with transport. The first one in Luxembourg 9 October and the second in Brussels 17-18 December.

In addition to that the Minister of Communications Åsa Torstensson will invite her fellow colleagues to a Ministerial Working Dinner in connection to the inauguration of the 16th ITS World Congress in Stockholm on 21 September. The dinner will be devoted to the Future of Transport.

A high level meeting will be arranged in Göteborg 26-27 October on new technologies for safe and environmentally sound road transport called Future road transport – safe and clean. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the use of both new and established technologies.

The transport policy issues are handled in EU by the Council for Transport, Telecommunications and Energy.

Priorities

of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications

Europe, as well as the rest of the world, is currently facing one of the deepest economic crises in history. At the same time, the world is facing one of the greatest long-term challenges of all time – global climate change.

These crises cannot be solved in isolation, but must be dealt with as a whole. Europe needs to shift to an eco-efficient economy. This involves:

- combining competitiveness with environmental responsibility through more efficient use of energy, raw materials and transport systems.
- making use of the potential for jobs and growth that are the result of a greater demand for environmentally adapted products, services and solutions.

Many policy areas must contribute

To bring about a transition to an eco-efficient economy, many different policy areas must contribute. The Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications has identified certain priority issues during the Swedish Presidency.

- A sustainable industrial policy
- Effective energy systems
- A future transport policy
- A future European IT policy
- Better regulations
- Small and medium-sized enterprises, including women's entrepreneurship

Initiatives in these areas contribute to economic recovery and to the development of an eco-efficient economy.

Meetings in Sweden

arranged by the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications

Informal ministerial meetings

Energy ministers, 23-24 July, Åre

Competitiveness ministers, 14-16 October, Umeå

Seminars and conferences

From the Charter for Small Enterprises to the Small Business Act, 4-6 October, Upplands Väsby

European Competition Day, 7 October, Upplands Väsby

Future road transport – safe and clean, 26-27 October, Göteborg

Eco-efficient economy – towards innovative and sustainable competitiveness, 2-3 November, Linköping

Visby Agenda: creating impact for an eUnion 2015, 9-10 November, Visby

A Conference on Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development: Make Use of the Territorial Potential!, 10-11 December, Kiruna

Other meetings

Ministerial working dinner for the transport ministers, 21 September, Södertälje

Informal transport attachés meeting, 27-28 July, Nynäshamn

Informal meeting of the Council Working Parties on Competitiveness and Growth and on Telecommunications and Information Society, 30–31 July 2009, in Stockholm

In addition several meetings and conferences are arranged by the authorities subordinated to the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications. For further information, please visit the Swedish Presidency's website: se2009.eu