



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft statement by Luxembourg promoting cycling as a mode of transport - Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached information from the Presidency on the abovementioned subject.
The Environment Council will examine it under 'Other business' at its meeting on
18 September 2015.

Draft statement by Luxembourg promoting cycling as a mode of transport
- Information from the Presidency -

The Presidency would like to inform the Council that transport ministers will meet in Luxembourg on 7 October 2015 to discuss cycling as a mode of transport.

Light-duty vehicles account for 15 % of the European Union's CO₂ emissions from road transport.¹

75 % of the population of the European Union lives in urban areas.

Half of the journeys made by car in urban areas are less than five kilometres.^{2,3}

It follows that cycling is the most efficient and environmentally-friendly mode of transport over short distances, provided that adequate infrastructure exists or is built.⁴

In addition, some motorised trips involving the transport of goods in urban areas could be made by bicycle.⁵

At European Union level, efforts to decarbonise the transport sector relate, in particular, to technical improvements to motor vehicles and promotion of public transport. Cycling as an environmentally-friendly mode of transport is only mentioned incidentally in this context.

The Luxembourg Presidency's ambition is, amongst other things, to invite the Commission, with the backing of the Transport Ministers of the Member States, to come up with a strategy to increase the modal share of cycling across the European Union so as to contribute to the EU's climate policy.

¹ Road transport: Reducing CO₂ emissions from vehicles, European Commission
ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/transport/vehicles/index_en.htm

² Walcyng, Research project under the Fourth Framework Programme of the EU, DG VII, 1997, Christer Hydén, www.ictct.org/migrated_2014/ictct_document_nr_319_16.pdf

³ Indicators tracking transport and environment integration in the European Union, European Environment Agency (2001) www.eea.europa.eu/publications/term2001

⁴ Federal Environment Agency (Germany), Electric bikes get things rolling, The environmental impact of pedelecs and their potential (2014)
www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/hgp_electric_bikes_get_things_rolling.pdf

⁵ Cyclelogistics (EU funded project), Potential to shift goods transport from cars to bicycles in European cities.
www.cyclelogistics.eu/docs/111/CycleLogistics_Baseline_Study_external.pdf