

Action plan on alternative fuels infrastructure

On 8 November 2017, the European Commission adopted the clean mobility package, including legislative proposals to help accelerate the transition to low and zero emission vehicles, together with a communication on an action plan with investment solutions for the trans-European deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. The Commission will present its action plan to the European Parliament during the March plenary session.

Background

The 2014 directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure ([2014/94/EU](#)) obliges Member States to develop national plans for the development of alternative fuels markets and their infrastructure, and submit these plans to the Commission within two years of the directive being adopted. It also foresees the use of common technical specifications for recharging and refuelling stations, and paves the way for setting up appropriate consumer information and price comparison on alternative fuels. Depending on the fuel and infrastructure concerned, the directive sets implementation deadlines in 2020, 2025 or 2030.

European Commission action plan on alternative fuels infrastructure

The 2017 [action plan](#) seeks to complement and reinforce the main objectives of the 2014 directive. It includes an assessment of the national plans that have been submitted to the Commission. With around 95 % of road vehicles conventionally fuelled, the action plan argues that 'the number of vehicles, and vessels, running on alternative energies in the EU is too low', and outlines some of the action necessary to put in place a core network of trans-European alternative fuels infrastructure by 2025. The national plans vary widely in their completeness, coherence and level of ambition. In general, they tend to fall short where electric vehicles and their charging points are concerned. The action plan insists that 'infrastructure needs to be ramped up in urban and sub-urban areas, where vehicles are being used for most of the time'.

The action plan proposes a number of ways to increase public and private investment in alternative fuels infrastructure. This includes making better use of EU financing under the Investment Plan for Europe, Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (where the Commission has committed an additional €800 million in 2018 for alternative fuels infrastructure) and cohesion policy instruments. The action plan also looks at ways to enable action in urban areas, increase consumer buy-in, integrate electric vehicles into the electricity system, and address other emerging issues.

European Parliament position

The own-initiative resolution of 15 December 2015, [Towards a European Energy Union](#), proposed an environmentally sustainable energy mix for European transport systems, encouraged the use of varied renewable energy sources, and called for greater efforts towards the development and deployment of electric mobility for road transport. The own-initiative resolution of 19 January 2017 on [logistics in the EU and multimodal transport in the new TEN-T corridors](#) called on the Commission 'to foster the development of electric and alternative-powered modes of transport and the necessary infrastructure along the whole TEN-T network ... and the development of alternative fuels and the necessary infrastructure'. The Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN) is currently preparing a [report](#) on 'Europe on the move: an agenda for the future of mobility in the EU' (Rapporteur: István Ujhelyi (S&D, Hungary), [2017/2257\(INI\)](#)), which is due to be debated in summer 2018.

The European Commission will deliver a statement on its action plan on alternative fuels infrastructure during the March plenary session of the European Parliament.

