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Committee on Transport and Tourism

2006/2061(INI)

24.4.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment
(COM(2005)0718 – 2006/2061(INI))

Draftsman: Seán Ó Neachtain

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public health and Food safety (ENVI), as committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

Having regard to the Communication of the Commission of 11 January 2006 on thematic strategy on the urban environment (COM(2005)0718),

1. Supports the idea of sustainable urban transport plans (SUTPs) as an instrument for improving the urban environment, but stresses the need to use this instrument in a flexible way, in order for the specific needs of each Member State and its urban areas, and, moreover, of regions affected by specific constraints, to be sufficiently taken into account.
2. Stresses that SUTPs should contain concrete and quantifiable targets that can be presented and monitored by means of a scoreboard, which would enhance the dissemination of best practice among Member States; points out that SUTPs should be flexible enough to accommodate new developments.
3. Considers the use of environmentally friendly modes of transport and technologies a key factor in achieving a cleaner urban environment; notes in this respect in particular the use of bio fuels, hybrid car technologies, bicycles, and trucks and buses that meet the EU's enhanced environment-friendly vehicle (EEV) standard¹; will accordingly give its interested attention to the Commission proposal on the introduction of clean public transport vehicles and proposes that the local energy efficiency agencies have a specific field of activity relating to urban transport.
4. Given that accessibility is central to sustainable development and must be tackled by an integrated urban policy approach, calls on the Union institutions to foster exchanges of good practice among local and national authorities and calls on the Commission to monitor enforcement of the existing European legislation to promote accessibility for people with disabilities, and in particular of the rules governing the specific Community procurement procedures, which expressly require design to be tailored to all users.
5. Supports the development of public transport using sustainable energy sources and urges that a better balance be struck between individual and collective transport in urban areas.
6. Emphasises the need to support the introduction of such initiatives with adequate EU funding, especially from specific programmes and funds such as CIVITAS²; supports the Commission's view that there are opportunities for obtaining financial assistance to address environmental priorities in urban areas under the proposed Life+ regulation,

¹ Directive 2005/55/EC concerning the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants.

² CIVITAS: CItY-VITAlity-Sustainability, CIVITAS I (2002-2006) and CIVITAS II (2005-2009) have an overall budget of more than EUR 300 million.

the Cohesion Fund, the Structural Funds and the research framework programme and is consequently opposed to any cuts in their budget. Points, however, to the need to identify sources of additional specific funding to meet the new challenges arising from the strategy for the urban environment.

7. Notes with interest that mobility, quality of life, environmental protection, and modal balance have benefited from experiments such as in London and Stockholm.
8. Points to the need to encourage greater use of public and collective transport in urban areas; also considers that urban transport services need to be geared both to the requirements of spatial planning (old town districts, outer parts, links to airports, stations, industrial estates, shopping areas, etc.) and to the needs of the public and demographic changes (older people, people with disabilities, etc.).

PROCEDURE

Title	The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment	
Procedure number	COM(2005)0718 - 2006/2061(INI)	
Committee responsible	ENVI	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	TRAN 16.3.2006	
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary		
Draftsman Date appointed	Seán Ó Neachtain 24.1.2006	
Previous drafts(wo)man		
Discussed in committee	21.3.2006	18.4.2006
Date adopted	19.4.2006	
Result of final vote	+: 41	–: 0
	0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Inés Ayala Sender, Etelka Barsi-Pataky, Paolo Costa, Michael Cramer, Arūnas Degutis, Christine De Veyrac, Armando Dionisi, Saïd El Khadraoui, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Roland Gewalt, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Mathieu Grosch, Ewa Hedkvist Petersen, Stanisław Jałowiecki, Georg Jarzembowski, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Jörg Leichtfried, Bogusław Liberadzki, Eva Lichtenberger, Erik Meijer, Robert Navarro, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Willi Piecyk, Luís Queiró, Reinhard Rack, Luca Romagnoli, Gilles Savary, Ulrich Stockmann, Gary Titley, Marta Vincenzi, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Roberts Zīle	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Den Dover, Nathalie Griesbeck, Elisabeth Jeggle, Anne E. Jensen, Kathy Sinnott, Dominique Vlasto, Jan Marinus Wiersma	
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote		
Comments (available in one language only)		