



EPHA letter for the Commission Green Paper Towards a new culture for urban mobility

Subject	EPHA letter for the European Commission “ Green Paper Towards a new culture for urban mobility
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The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) represents over 90 non-governmental and other not-for-profit organisations working in support of health in Europe. EPHA aims to promote and protect the health interests of all people living in Europe and to strengthen the dialogue between the EU institutions, citizens and NGOs in support of healthy public policies.

<http://www.ephha.org>

EPHA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Commission's “*Green Paper towards a new culture for urban mobility*”.

EPHA would like to stress with this letter our support for the detailed response submitted by our member, European Heart Network, on the Green Paper. Please find their response enclosed with this letter.

EPHA believes that transport and urban planning policies have an important role to play in encouraging physical activity both by ensuring that walking and cycling are easy and safe, and by promoting no-motorised modes of transport. Given the specific conditions of each region and city in the European Union, EPHA encourages local authorities together with the support of the European Commission to find better solutions to promote physical activity. Setting up a coordinating mechanism in order to implement an action plan promoting physical activity within the urban mobility plan would be a sound approach to achieve this.

For EPHA, moving towards a new culture for urban mobility is a chance for Europe to address the obesogenic environment Europe is facing today. Environments that are conducive to physical activity must be safe environments. Therefore, the provision of cycling and walking paths to schools and workplaces must be accompanied by measures that ensure the safety of those activities. A report on promoting child safety in the EU¹ highlights reduced speed limits, safer car fronts for pedestrians and cyclists and education campaigns as just some of the measures which help to reduce the number of child road accidents along with improved enforcement of traffic law. Encouraging a shift to non-motorised transport in this manner will have the additional benefit of reducing the traffic emissions that make compliance with European air quality legislation so difficult across the community and that continue to pose significant threats to health.

EPHA therefore encourages the Commission to propose to the Council measures which aim to improve transport safety across the EU with a view to creating environments conducive to increased physical activity and the promotion of non-motorised transport in urban environments..

¹Priorities for Child Safety in the European Union: Agenda for Action (2004)

[http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/csi/ecsa.nsf/index/injurythemes/\\$file/2004whitebook.pdf](http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/csi/ecsa.nsf/index/injurythemes/$file/2004whitebook.pdf)



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