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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

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Subject: ***Preparation of the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 14 March 2014***

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions –Together towards competitive and resource-efficient urban mobility

- Policy debate

I. Introduction

The Commission presented on 17 December 2013 the Communication “Together towards competitive and resource-efficient urban mobility”.

This Communication aims at leveraging action across all levels of government: the Commission will step up its support in areas with established EU added value, while Member States are encouraged to create the right framework conditions for local authorities to develop and implement integrated and comprehensive strategies for better and more sustainable urban mobility. To facilitate closer exchange between the Commission and the Member States, the Commission proposes to host a Member States Expert Group on Urban Mobility.

II. Objectives

With the urban mobility package, the Commission reinforces its supporting measures in the following areas:

- **Sharing experience and show-casing best practices:** The Commission will set up in 2014 a European platform for sustainable urban mobility plans. This platform will help cities, planning experts and stakeholders to plan for easier and greener urban mobility;
- **Providing targeted financial support:** Through the European structural and investment funds, the EU will continue to support urban transport projects, in particular in the less-developed regions of the EU;
- **Research and Innovation:** The Civitas 2020 initiative in the framework of Horizon 2020 will allow cities, companies, academia and other partners to develop and test novel approaches for urban mobility.
- **Involving the Member States and working together:** The Commission puts forward specific recommendations for coordinated action between all levels of government and between the public and the private sector in four areas: urban logistics, urban access regulation, deployment of intelligent transport system (ITS) solutions, urban road safety.

III. Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning

The **sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP)**, as described in the Annex to the Communication (doc. 18136/13 ADD 1), should be developed in cooperation across different policy areas and sectors (transport, land-use and spatial planning, environment, economic development, social policy, health, road safety, etc.) as well as across different levels of government and administration.

For all these reasons, an holistic approach in developing an effective and sustainable urban mobility policy involving all the stakeholders (firms, government and administration at central, regional and local level), and across different policy areas and sectors (inter alia, land use, spatial planning, environment, health, transport and economic development), should be a high priority on the European political agenda.

IV. Financial resources

The structural funds are today the single most important source of EU funding for urban transport and mobility projects. The Horizon 2020 work programme for 2014 and 2015, will drive the innovative policies and technologies needed for the move towards a competitive and resource-efficient urban mobility. Urban nodes are key elements for the construction of a comprehensive European transport network as they are the starting point or the final destination ("last mile") for passengers and freight moving on the trans-European transport network and are points of transfer within or between different transport modes. Action by European cities is crucial for achieving the objectives of TEN-T policy. The TEN-T Guidelines identify priorities in the development of the urban nodes of the comprehensive network through the Connecting Europe Facility.

II. Policy debate

In order to have elements for political guidance, the Presidency would like to invite ministers to elaborate on the various issues at stake. To focus the scope of the debate the Presidency prepared the following questions:

1. What are Ministers' views on Sustainable Mobility Planning (SUMP) as suggested in the Communication, with the collaborative multilevel and synergy approach taken?
2. How could the various funding mechanisms such as structural funds, research funds at EU and national level as well as the private sector financing be best used and coordinated/blended to put in place an Urban Mobility strategy?
3. Do Ministers consider that in addition to urban logistics, access restriction schemes, road user charging, urban ITS and road safety, there are any other priority issues/measures of European added value not covered by the Communication, which should be considered/taken into account at an EU level?