



Transcript of Video message by EU Commissioner Siim Kallias at 16th European Parking Association Congress in Dublin September 13, 2013

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to travel to the beautiful city of Dublin and join you in person for this important event. I am nevertheless pleased to talk to you briefly about urban mobility priorities at the European level.

Urban mobility has emerged as an important dimension of the European transport policy.

We can reach our ambitious policy objectives for a more competitive and resource-efficient European transport system by giving full consideration to the needs and challenges of our towns and cities.

I am happy to say that we have made considerable progress since I addressed you two years ago.

Earlier this year, the Commission put forward a Clean Power for Transport Package. It includes a plan to build a European-wide fuelling infrastructure for vehicles powered by alternative fuels. New charging and fuelling stations could ideally be promoted in parking areas.

It is primarily for the competent authorities at local and regional level to formulate and take forward urban transport policies. The European Commission remains committed to supporting these efforts in areas where EU action offers clear added value.

As an example, some 200 towns and cities belong today to the CIVITAS network of cities. Many of them have made amazing progress towards better and more sustainable urban mobility.

In Tallinn, for instance, Park and Ride and school bus services were integrated, making it easier for parents to combine the school runs and commuting to work. In San Sebastian, the installation of an integrated parking guidance system has helped the city make better use of existing parking facilities and increase the share of Park and Ride users.

EU support can make a difference. I will therefore launch a comprehensive Urban Mobility Package later this year. We will address issues like urban transport planning, urban logistics, urban access regulations, road safety and the deployment of urban Intelligent Transport System solutions.

Let me underline that innovating parking policies are essential for bringing about a new type of urban mobility.

I look forward to a continued close exchange with the European Parking Association and its members.

I wish you every success for today's event.