



**Mr Henrik HOLOLEI**  
Director-General of DG MOVE  
European Commission  
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BE – 1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

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Dear Director-General, dear Henrik,

## **RE: The upcoming Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy**

Following our recent fruitful exchange, I write to you to highlight one of the key principles that BusinessEurope believes should be taken well into account in preparation of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy expected by the end of the year.

We recognise that the strategy will set a pathway to master the twin green and digital transitions aiming at significantly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and pollutant emissions as well as improving efficiencies across all modes of transport while enhancing digitisation, automation and connectivity. The strategy will also pave the way for a more resilient and crisis-proof Single European Transport Area. BusinessEurope stands behind the Commission's goals to achieve a sustainable, smart, and fully interconnected all-modes-of-transport system, able to better connect our businesses, regions, and citizens, while contributing to the EU's global competitiveness.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis has had – and is still having - a devastating impact on businesses, especially in the transport sector, the industry remains fully committed to become more sustainable and further digitalise, having already invested heavily to ensure that all modes of transport help to attain the common goals. However, the investment needs in the European transport system remain immense and are currently only marginally covered by the Multiannual Financial Framework's dedicated programmes. Furthermore, it remains to be seen how the MFF effort is supplemented by national commitments under the recovery plans.

In addition, the side effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the transport industry will last for much longer than the duration of the health emergency, further affecting companies' investment capacity in the years to come. We are afraid that, although of paramount importance to support the recovery of European economy, the NextGenerationEU instrument will not be sufficient to sustain companies' efforts towards the established objectives and even possibly get back to the pre-crisis level.

In this context, and while keeping up with the pressure for a faster transition to more sustainable and digital solutions, companies need support through the right EU policies but also through the necessary means, in the form of EU funds or incentive schemes, to be able to achieve our joint ambitions.



Therefore, we strongly call on the Commission for a comprehensive and pragmatic approach for the delivery of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, which considers the unprecedented economic impact of COVID-19 and underpin the need for ample resources to achieve its ambitious goals.

We invite DG MOVE, as leading on the Smart and Sustainable Strategy preparation, to share the concerns of BusinessEurope with other DGs concerned, such as DG ENVI, DG CLIMA, DG EMPL and DG ECFIN.

BusinessEurope remains at your disposal for further exchanges on these important issues.

Best regards,



Markus J. Beyrer