

Declaration by the Transport Ministers of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia launching the Trio Presidency (1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021)

“Joining forces for sustainable, innovative, resilient and affordable mobility”

Coping with the COVID-19 crisis in transport, recovering from the negative impacts on our economies and lessons learned

We, the transport ministers of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, are launching our Trio Presidency during a time that is still overshadowed by the COVID-19 crisis. The last few months have confronted us with major societal, economic and organisational challenges that will continue to impact the transport sector for a long time. At the same time, we have seen the immense strategic significance of a well-functioning European transport area and efficient logistics chains during times of crisis. Mobility is a precondition for our economy and society, in a crisis more than ever.

Therefore, we want to progress measures for coping with the crisis, and use the lessons learned to strengthen the transport sector and thus the economy. In particular, we intend to analyse the impact of the pandemic on transport infrastructure and services and debate actions to make them more resilient. During the Trio Presidency, we will need to regularly assess whether the measures taken to cater for the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis remain appropriate or if adjustments and additional joint and coordinated measures are needed, covering Commission guidelines and legislative initiatives, whether they require the engagement of the Council or not.

With view to the lessons learned we will endeavour during the Trio Presidency for European emergency plans in order to secure the necessary mobility demands in times of crisis and the cross-border flow of goods. Measures that progress innovation and climate change mitigation in the transport sector, the development of new industrial clusters that accelerate the transition of clean energy, such as green hydrogen, as well as measures aimed at protecting the smooth functioning of the common market are of special importance for maintaining a competitive transport system after the COVID-19 crisis. We therefore view our Trio Presidency as an opportunity for actively shaping the way that will lead us out of this crisis while focusing on sustainable, innovative, resilient, and affordable mobility.

Innovation for sustainable and affordable mobility

Mobility is among the most basic needs of our society. Mobility connects people within and across borders and is the basis for economic prosperity in Europe as well as for the supply of goods and services. At the same time, confronted with climate change, transport policy-makers face the challenge of providing user-friendly, affordable and sustainable mobility that meets the citizens' basic needs, strengthens the European economy and competitiveness while at the same time living up to our responsibility in the area of climate change mitigation. To this end, we

intend to **strengthen innovative capacities and to further profit from the potential inherent in innovation for Europe**. In particular, **digital transformation, innovation and better connectivity of transport modes** needs to be used even more than before.

With the **European Green Deal**, the European Commission has presented a comprehensive proposal to shape the EU in a sustainable and competitive way in all aspects and progress the achievement of climate change targets. The objective of reaching the 2030 target as well as achieving **climate neutrality in the EU by 2050** is the guiding principle in this endeavour. The transport sector, in particular, is expected to make a major contribution to this objective. Hence, in the context of our Trio Presidency, we need to make resolute progress. The **EU Strategy on Sustainable and Smart Mobility**, which was announced within the framework of the Green Deal, will therefore be a thematic priority for our Trio Presidency. In order to enable mobility that is sustainable, innovative and competitive, and focuses on the citizens' needs and strengthens our economy, we must, with this framework in mind, jointly develop **new and innovative solutions** and resolutely progress in their implementation.

The increased use of alternative drivetrains such as electric mobility and alternative fuels plays a special role in the decarbonisation of the transport sector. During the Trio Presidency, we will actively take up the evaluation and revision of the Directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (**AFID**) in order to facilitate the break-through of alternative drivetrains and fuels everywhere in Europe. Therefore, the focus will be on user friendliness and interoperability as well as the Europe-wide availability of alternative fuels infrastructure. The technology-neutral approach that we have pursued so far is to be continued and is to promote competition between the most efficient and climate-friendly technologies for the different fields of application.

We aim to provide incentives for switching to climate-friendly vehicles and ensuring reliable infrastructure funding. Therefore, the Trio will endeavour to conclude the negotiations on the Eurovignette Directive.

Such **targeted pricing elements in conjunction with innovative solutions, efficiency enhancement and the strengthening of the rail and shipping modes of transport** are important milestones on our way towards modern, sustainable and competitive mobility.

Strengthening innovative rail, multimodal freight transport and shipping

We would also like to place special emphasis on **efficient, attractive and quiet rail transport**. The role that rail can have in accelerating the reduction of emissions in the transport sector is laid out in both the European Green Deal and in establishing 2021 as the European Year of Rail. This transport mode is one of the most environmentally and energy-efficient ones, having also the potential to foster social, economic and territorial cohesion. It is our objective to significantly further increase passenger numbers and the amount of freight transported by rail.

Passenger rail transport services throughout Europe that are well developed, user friendly, demand driven and offered in a market that is open to competition make a significant contribution to individual and sustainable mobility. The Presidency Trio will push forward for the modernisation of infrastructures and rolling stock across all geographies within the EU with

due regard of appropriate financing sources, so that the rail sector can be reinforced in all its dimensions: infrastructure, operations, innovation and industrial capacity.

The EU rail freight corridors have laid the foundation for a well-functioning rail freight transport system in the EU. Against the background of the revision of Regulation (EU) No 913/2010, we intend to further develop this system. Among other things, we intend to focus on infrastructure management and the interoperability of operating procedures. In addition, the digital transformation and automation are major levers for efficiency enhancement in rail freight, which would be substantially accelerated by introducing the Digital Automatic Coupling.

We also advocate **strengthening multimodal freight transport and innovative logistics solutions** in order to guarantee efficient, crisis-proof and sustainable transport chains by combining the different modes of transport. We intend to pay particular attention to the **Green Cargo Package** of the European Commission.

In the **shipping sector**, we would also like to rise to the challenges identified by the Commission in its Green Deal and demonstrate that sustainability and international competitiveness are not mutually exclusive. We will look into climate change mitigation, alternative fuels and digital transformation.

Consumer friendly, connected and digital mobility

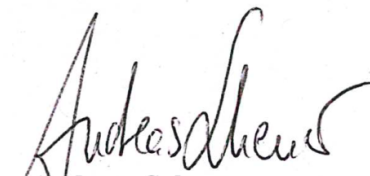
In the **aviation sector**, we intend to increase safety, security and efficiency as well as consumer protection and sustainability while at the same time strengthening the innovative capacity and competitiveness of Europe as a location for aviation. Discussions on a comprehensive reform of air transport and on the future of the **Single European Sky** are to be progressed and negotiations on the **revision of the Passenger Rights Regulation** are to be brought to a balanced conclusion.

Smart, efficient and sustainable mobility cannot be achieved without high-capacity and reliable **transport infrastructure**. The TEN transport network plays a crucial role in promoting cohesion and competitiveness in Europe as well as better connections with our neighbouring regions. The **revision of the TEN-T Regulation** will therefore play an important role in our Trio Presidency. We will advocate a **better connectivity of the peripheral areas of the EU, including with its neighbouring countries, inter alia Iberian Peninsula and Western Balkans, and smoother cross-border transport.**

The **digital transformation in the transport sector** and the use of artificial intelligence have the potential to improve mobility in everyday life for citizens and companies across all modes of transport. Therefore, we intend to turn the EU into a pioneer for innovative, citizen-friendly and competitive mobility that seizes the opportunities offered by **the digital transformation and a wider availability and re-use of data, especially open data**. The debate around the Commission's forthcoming **Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Mobility**, including the dimension of Intelligent Transport Systems and of Co-operative Connected Automated Mobility, will greatly contribute to this endeavour.

Joint forces for a strong and unified European transport system

Together with all EU Member States, we intend to shape the European mobility sector in a way that is fit for the future and make the mobility of the future **modern, affordable, competitive and sustainable for citizens and industry**. To this end, we intend to engage in **close cooperation in a spirit of trust with the European Commission and the European Parliament** in order to develop and progress the best solutions together. What is more, our negotiations will be guided by the **principles of target-orientation, transparency and responsiveness to the needs of business and of citizens**.


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