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Minister for Transport Henrik Dam Kristensen

The EU Presidency is a big challenge for a small country like Denmark. However, it is also an opportunity to play a central role in pushing Europe forward.

The Danish EU Presidency focuses on green growth as Europe's way out of the economic crisis. Infrastructure and efficient transport are essential to generating green growth.

We are well-prepared and I am confident that – in close cooperation with our fellow EU partners – we can create results that benefit the EU as a whole.



A well-connected Transport System and reduced Air Pollution

The transport sector is a cornerstone in the European economy in facilitating growth and employment. Efforts are necessary to create a more flexible infrastructure in Europe under conditions that are sustainable for the environment and climate.

As mobility increases the existence of a well-developed infrastructure and an efficient interplay between different modes of transport becomes a necessity for individual citizens, the transport industries and modern society at large. An efficient infrastructure will furthermore improve the access of companies to markets. In the future, Europe is faced with major challenges of peak hour traffic congestion in both passenger and freight transport, that will cause delays and prolonged delivery times to the inconvenience of individual citizens. It will also affect productivity and the internal market in general. Preventing and counteracting the congestion challenges is thus necessary in all modes of transport.

The Danish Presidency will work on strengthening the internal market by making use of the advantages of intelligent transport systems, better public transport, more efficient and safer air transport, better connections between road networks and ports, intermodality and an increased use of Eco-combies.

Air pollution from cars, ships, trains and aircrafts remains a global problem.

An ambitious continuation of common efforts against air pollution must go hand in hand with the EU policies that aim to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses. Energy efficient vehicles such as hybrid and electric cars can contribute greatly to this goal.

Targets for reducing air pollution must be incorporated into the long term EU strategies for health and environment in a manner that is resource efficient.



(Photo: Better Place Danmark A/S)

Transport Issues of priority to the Danish EU Presidency

The Council formation Transport, Telecommunications and Energy cover central policies in the efforts to prepare Europe for the future.

The Presidency will promote an efficient, innovative and environmentally sustainable transport of persons and goods in Europe in order to create a high level of mobility and economic growth.



(Photo: Council of the European Union)

Revision of TEN-T Guidelines

An efficient interplay between different modes of transport is necessary, especially between sea routes, ports and terminals and land based modes of transport.

The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) is central to the future infrastructure of Europe.

The efforts of the Council to revise the TEN-T guidelines, and the related proposal on financing transport infrastructure are therefore of priority to the Danish Presidency. Furthermore, in connection with TEN-T, and as part of the discussions on the EU budget, the Presidency will work to promote transport infrastructure projects of a transnational nature under the Connecting Europe Facility in particular.



(Photo: René Strandbygaard)

A single European Railway Area

The Council will also deal with the proposal on a single European railway area. By consolidating the directives of the first railway package as well as by simplifying legal provisions it will contribute to a modernisation of the European railway sector.



(Photo: Rene Strandbygaard)

Galileo Satellite Navigation System

The development of a satellite system for navigation and positioning services can contribute to better steering and control in all modes of transport.

The Danish Presidency will continue the efforts on Galileo and emphasise the importance of a competent and cost-efficient project management.



The Airports Package

The aviation sector plays a major role for European mobility. The airports package will include proposals that revise current EU airport policies.

The Presidency will prioritise efforts on the rules covering groundhandling, slot allocation at airports and noise-related operating restrictions at Community airports.

The Presidency will work to complete a number of air transport agreements between the EU and third countries.

Furthermore, the Presidency will focus on smart and costefficient solutions in the area of safety. The Presidency will also focus on aviation security and that flight time regulations for pilots and cabin crew must be based on scientific evidence.



(Photo: Arne V. Petersen/Københavns Lufthavne)

Modular Vehicle Combinations (Eco-Combies)

Modular vehicle combinations (Eco-Combies) strengthen the efficiency of freight transport on roads and contribute to a better environment while relieving road networks, as two Eco-combies can replace three conventional lorries.

The Danish Presidency wishes to promote the possibility for cross-border transport with Eco-Combies in the EU.



(Photo: Scania)

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