

To:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Green Deal
Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President,
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President,
Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President,
Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market
Adina-Ioana Vălean, Commissioner for Transport

Copy to:

Pascal Canfin, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee Chair
Karima Delli, Transport Committee Chair
Cristian-Silviu Busoil, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy Chair

Brussels, 11th of January 2023

EU civil society and cities urge Commission not to delay CO2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles any further

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Vice President Timmermans, Šefčovič and Vestager,
Dear Commissioner Valean and Breton,

We are greatly concerned about the potential further postponement of the Commission's proposal to review the CO₂ performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) to May 2023.

The truck and bus CO₂ standards are an integral part of the European Green Deal, in which the Commission committed to a Europe that is sustainable and competitive, stressing that every industry and country will be part of it.

Delaying the proposal to May 2023 brings the law at very high risk of no longer being closed under the current legislative turn. Europe would lose indispensable time to tackle the rapidly growing emissions from the trucking sector, whose activity is expected to increase by 44% between now and 2050. Without timely action, trucks and buses will in fact undo all the road transport emissions savings between now and 2030 that Europe just committed to under the CO₂ standards for cars and vans.¹ Further delay also fails to urgently address toxic air pollution caused by increasing trucking activity, which is causing 49,000 premature deaths annually and continues to put citizen's health and lives at risk, especially in cities. The delay casts doubt on the Commission's commitment to align the road freight sector with the EU's Climate Law.

¹ Transport & Environment (2022). Addressing the heavy-duty climate problem. [link](#)

Originally scheduled for November 30th of last year, the HDV CO₂ standards were already delayed once. We, the **46 undersigned civil society, city authorities, health and environmental organisations**, see any further delay as a risk to member states' achievement of the new Effort Sharing Targets (ESR) that were agreed last October. To reach these new ambitious targets, member states need to be able to count on strengthened sectoral policies also at EU level. Certainly in the road transport sector, where emissions have been increasing instead of decreasing. Ambitious and swiftly implemented CO₂ standards will help Europe to stay in line with its 2030 and 2050 climate targets, as every new zero emission truck on the road immediately lowers our transport emissions and foreign oil dependency.

The technology to transport goods without emissions and harmful air and noise pollution is already rolling on our streets today. Zero emission trucks (ZETs) are being operated by large hauliers across Europe, financially supported by several governments and increasingly demanded by logistics operators across Europe. Strong CO₂ standards for heavy duty vehicles can make this the default within the next decades and across the EU.

We therefore appeal to the Commission **to publish the HDV CO₂ proposal no later than January 31st.**

Yours sincerely,







Für Mensch
und Umwelt



2Celsius (RO)

Alpen-Initiative (CH)

Associação per a la Promoció del Transport Públic (PT)

Bellona

Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BE)

CALSTART (US)

Cittadini per l'Aria (IT)

Clean Cities Campaign

Clean Air Task Force

Deutscher Naturschutzring (DE)

Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DE)

ECODES (ES)

ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards

Ecounion (ES)
EKO-UNIA (PL)
Eurocities
European Public Health Alliance
European Respiratory Society
Focus Association for Sustainable Development (SI)
Fundación Renovables (ES)
Fundacja Napraw Sobie Miasto (PL)
Fundacja Promocji Pojazdów Elektrycznych (PL)
Green Transition Denmark (DN)
Koalicja Klimatyczna (PL)
Kyoto Club (IT)
Legambiente (IT)
Milieudefensie/ Friends of the Earth Netherlands (NL)
NABU - Naturschutzbund Deutschland (DE)
Natuur & Milieu (NL)
Netwerk Duurzame Mobiliteit (BE)
Polski Alarm Smogowy
Polish Ecological Club (Mazovian and Pomeranian branches, PL)
Polis
PSPA (PL)
Quercus (PT)
Respire (Association Nationale pour l'Amélioration de la Qualité de l'Air et la Défense des Victimes de la Pollution) (FR)
Sbilanciamoci (IT)
Slovak Electric Vehicle Association (SL)
Sum of Us
Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot (PL)
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SE)
The Climate Group/ EV100+
Transport & Environment
VCÖ - Mobilität mit Zukunft (IT)
VCD - Verkehrsclub Deutschland (DE)
VCS Verkehrs-Club der Schweiz (CH)
WWF España (ES)
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável (PT)
Zelena Akcija (HR)