



PRESS

European Economic and Social Committee

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EESC will debate European cycling policy and officially launch "The European Cycling Lexicon"

From 12 to 14 May 2009, the international conference on cycling policy "Velo-City 2009" will take place in Brussels, with a "wrap-up" session on Friday 15 May in the European Parliament. On 15 May, the EESC will take part in the event by signing the "Charter of Brussels", a commitment to a European pro-cycling policy. The EESC will also officially launch "The European Cycling Lexicon", a multilingual glossary for citizens and politicians. The event will provide an opportunity to highlight the important role of cycling for sustainable transport, in particular in urban areas, and how it can be better supported by European policies.

Venue: European Parliament, "wrap-up" session in the Hemicycle, Sub-Plenary "Climate change and taxation policies" in room 1A02

Date: 15 May, 9.00-12.45

As an advocate of sustainable urban transport and a cycling-friendly employer in the Brussels' EU district, the EESC will take part in the "wrap-up". On May 15 the EESC's Secretary General Martin Westlake will officially launch the first "European Cycling Lexicon"; an illustrated booklet in a handy passport format, containing key cycling terms in all 23 official EU languages, with the aim of helping citizens and policy makers to overcome language barriers in cycling matters. The lexicon will also raise awareness about infrastructure that facilitates cycling and on cycling policy not only as a local but also as a European issue.

The EESC has long advocated pro-cycling policies, calling in various opinions for their integration into European transport and structural policies. In line with this policy, Mr Janos Toth, President of the EESC's Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN) will sign, on behalf of the EESC, the "Charter of Brussels", a pledge for a cycling-friendly policy in Europe. Highlighting the important role of transport and financial incentives on the Europe's response to the climate change, EESC member Derek Osborn (Group III, Various Interests), will chair the sub-plenary session "Climate change and taxation policies".

As a socially and environmentally responsible employer in the Brussels EU district, the EESC encourages cycling among its staff by organising monthly Friday-Bikedays, including today 8 May, by offering training for cycling in traffic, by providing service bikes and by promoting cycling to work in its sustainable transport scheme.



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