

Cargo bikes recognised in high level European Mobility Strategy

10 December, Brussels – The cargo bike advocacy community in Europe was rewarded yesterday when the importance of cycle logistics was recognised in the European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. The strategic document that will guide EU policy on transport and mobility up to 2030 explicitly mentions cargo bikes as a solution for urban logistics.

This is a very important achievement for the cargo bike and cycle logistics sector as it finally gives a status to the industry. This will have an impact in the future decisions on policies at urban level and it can influence the allocation of EU funding. Cargo bikes are part of the strategy and will play a more and more important role at EU level decision-making.

The European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy was published on 9th December and presented during a press conference by the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans and the European Commissioner for Transport Adina Valean. The Strategy explicitly mentions cargo bikes as a solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in urban transport: “Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans are expected to accelerate the deployment of zero-emissions solutions such as cargo bikes.”

Richard Armitage, Executive Director of the European Cycle Logistics Federation (ECLF), commented: “We are delighted that the European Commission recognises the potential for cargo bikes in urban logistics and place our industry at the highest level in that strategy. This is a recognition of the work we have done as ECLF and the decision to create a Brussels office in partnership with Cycling Industries Europe (CIE). We set up the CIE/ECLF Cargo Bikes & Cycle Logistics Experts’ Group to bring together the leading lights from all corners of our fast-growing sector. This is a great way to end the Group’s first year.”

The EU is already investing in cargo bikes with the City Changer Cargo Bike (CCCB) project. CCCB exploits the limitless potential of cargo bikes promoting their usage amongst public, private, and commercial users. Supported by the Horizon2020 programme, CCCB brings together 20 partners including cities, research institutions, NGOs, and industries from all over Europe in the quest to achieve a faster, more cost-effective and larger scale deployment of this sustainable mobility option. Assessing best practices across Europe, CCCB is raising awareness and supporting the uptake of cargo bikes and cargo bike initiatives. In doing so, the project will foster exciting developments that - among other things - offer more sustainable logistics operations, improve public spaces, engage citizens, and reduce traffic congestion.

The cargo bike community now has the ambition for far more support from the EU in order to contribute to the shift towards more sustainable transport.



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