

**CSD-18, High Level Segment, Round Table No. 3
„Meeting the Challenges of transportation needs in 21st century“
Thursday, May 13, 2010, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Room No. 1**

Günter Liebel

Director General of the Department of General Environmental Policy of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

I have been listening carefully to all the excellent ideas that have emerged during this session. They will certainly contribute to preparing the next key steps in the right direction in terms of a modern transport and mobility management. When asking ourselves what the major challenges we are facing in the 21st century regarding transport and mobility management are, I should like – in addition to what has been said on behalf of the EU and its 27 member states - to highlight a couple of aspects:

There can't be any doubt about the fact that the modern world is a world of increased mobility; modern people are mobile people, or, at least, they show a strong tendency to move permanently (regardless if this occurs as a result of their work-life or as a result of their private interests, e.g. tourism). Thus, there is an increased demand for adequate transport modes and systems as well as for a sound designed infrastructure; doubtless, more transport often means more traffic (if not, sometimes, an endangering or a standstill of mobility) all over – in the streets, on railway tracks, and in the air – followed by an increasingly negative environmental impact. Policy makers and all stakeholders are challenged to find and formulate a sound policy in this regard:

It is therefore necessary to further establish modern and sound mobility management on local, national and international levels that meets both the increasing public demand and the requirements for a healthy and, in particular, sustainable environment. While stipulating obsolete models, such new management concepts have to offer affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound transport services and systems, and it would be an asset, if they also could challenge the private transport industry creatively. Respecting the key requirements for sustainable development, the existing modern technologies should be used in a much more efficient way. Modern transport and mobility management certainly has to include an integrated management of all modes of transport – in streets, on railways, on water and in the air -, and therefore requires a well tuned coordination and cooperation of all players involved. The necessary measures must go beyond only technical aspects and have to give proof of better logistics for sustainable transport.

An additional challenge for modern mobility management of the 21st century is certainly given by the further need for and integrated urban and regional transport planning as well as for an adequate land use planning: it is obvious that bad planning leads to increased traffic, whereas sound management is characterized by a targeted and effective settlement policy, by the strengthening of the public transport system as well as by supportive fiscal and regulatory policies. This planning has to include both transboundary public transport services and the implementation of connections of supra-regional traffic infrastructure to the regional ones. Improved offering of and access to public information on environmentally friendly transport and travel opportunities require cooperation of all players involved, public administration as well as private stakeholders in the traffic, tourism and regional development sectors.

Austria supports and stimulates partnerships in working towards creating an environmentally friendly, sustainable transport system emphasizing low-energy modes of transport in Europe as well as on a national level to implement environmentally sound mobility. We have launched the national "klima:active mobil"-programme for supporting cities, regions, and companies as well as schools for implementing climate friendly mobility management. This initiative and its programmes have shown quite successful results, as more than 700 partners are already achieving a reduction of approximately up to 400.000 of CO2 emissions every year. Investments in mobility management, renewable energy and electric mobility, and cycling as well as innovative public transport help to protect the environment and at the same time to stimulate our economy and to create green jobs.

Thank you for your attention.