

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 5. Transport

Intervention by Italy¹

Italy associates and aligns itself with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the European Union and would like to further highlight two specific challenges which we should further consider and emphasize.

The response to economic crisis, that affects most countries within the UNECE Region, as affirmed in the “G8 Leaders Declaration”, should not overlook the opportunity to facilitate a global green recovery putting our economies on a path towards more sustainable and resilient growth.

The fiscal stimulus packages, finalized to combat economic crisis, are increasingly investing in measures encouraging the creation of green jobs and low-carbon, energy efficient and sustainable growth, including investment in public transportation infrastructures, incentives for fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce CO2 emissions.

In particular, the automotive industry has received a part of fiscal stimulus packages. We remark the importance of mainstreaming sustainability criteria and the development of clean and innovative technologies in the production processes within automotive industry, also creating the appropriate synergies with SCP initiatives.

To develop clean technologies and, consequently, clean transport means to reduce negative effects of transport on the environment and health, especially in urban areas where automotive traffic contribute significantly to air pollution and to noise.

At the same time, encouraging the modal shift from road to other more environmentally friendly transportation modes as railway and shipping modes, could contribute to reduce CO2 emissions, to improve urban air quality and to decrease the negative effects on the environment and health.

Thank you.

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.