

Press Release



17 June 1998

Community of European Railways (CER), European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future (e5), The European Cyclist Federation (ECF), The European Environmental Bureau (EEB), The European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), Union of European Railway Industries (UNIFE), Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP)

Declaration of T&E, EEB, ECF, e5, CER, UNIFE and UITP to the joint EU-Council Meeting of Environment and Transport Ministers of 17th June 1998 in Luxembourg.

The associations listed above welcome this initiative of holding a joint Council and congratulate the UK Presidency for it.

The EU-Commission underlined (Com(98)-333) that Article 6 of the Treaty "*should rapidly be implemented and therefore the environment policy has to be integrated into other policies*", such as the transport policy.

The Second Assessment about Europe's Environment by the European Environment Agency published the 10th of June noted that until now, "*transport is one of the key causes of many of Europe's environmental problems and that pressures caused by this sector are growing fast*".

The British Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, underlined the need for action at the informal joint meeting held in April 1998 in Chester :

"Now is the time to begin turning rhetoric into action so that we can deliver on international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change. This is the start of that important process".

This is a testing meeting for the EU environment policy and these are testing times for our environment. Congestion is stifling our cities ; 45,000 people are killed yearly on our roads ; pollution damages human health ; CO2 emissions are disrupting our climate.

Tomorrow starts today. The time to take action has come.

The signing associations urge the Luxembourg Environment/Transport Council meeting to establish a step by step programme of "Fair and Efficient Pricing" in the transport sector in order to put the internalisation of external costs in the transport sector at the top of the political agenda.
