
Supplying energy for a Sustainable and Smart Mobility in Europe

As the voice of Europe's independent fuel suppliers, UPEI welcomes the publication of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, as it gives some clarity on future policies meant to drive the transformation of the transport sector towards climate neutrality. Our sector will play a crucial role in supplying the energy in Europe allowing to reduce emissions in all modes of transport, and UPEI members stand ready to do their part in making mobility more sustainable.

We support the Strategy's recognition of the need to boost renewable and low-carbon fuels for road, waterborne, air and rail transport, without further delay, for deployment on a large scale.

Cécile Nourigat, UPEI Secretary General, says *"we are glad to see that the needs of fuel suppliers and distributors to have clear policy signals on the value of renewable and low-carbon fuels are fully recognised in the Strategy. We look forward to the future legislative proposals that will translate these signals into specific regulations, allowing all sustainable solutions to compete without picking winners or losers"*.

We also welcome the reference to the 'basket of measures' needed to reduce GHG emissions in aviation and maritime transport. Similarly, the review of other pieces of legislation announced in the Strategy, including the Directive on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure, the Energy Taxation Directive, the Emission Trading Scheme and the CO₂ emission standards for vehicles should be tackled according to the principles of regulatory coherence and technology neutrality.

In light of the above, UPEI stands ready to further engage with EU institutions to identify the best policy means of incentivising sustainable fuels for all modes of transport, in order to effectively and cost-efficiently decarbonise the sector.

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UPEI represents nearly 2,000 European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of energy for the transport and heating sectors, supplying Europe's customers independently of the major energy producers. They are the interface between producers and consumers, using their own infrastructure and flexibility to supply existing demand for conventional and renewable liquid fuels, as well as non-liquid alternatives as part of the energy transition. They cover more than a third of Europe's current demand. The organisation brings together national associations and suppliers across Europe.

Independent fuel suppliers bring competition to Europe's energy market and are able to respond rapidly to changes affecting supply, contributing to security on a local, national and regional level. They have developed and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure for the sourcing, storage and distribution of transport and heating fuels, with a commitment to delivering a high-quality service to all consumers, including those in remote areas.

Since 1962 UPEI has been advocating for a level playing field and fair competition to ensure an affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply for Europe's consumers. Today, in the context of the transition to a low carbon economy, UPEI and its members are also addressing the challenges of adapting the product range and meeting consumer demand through market-oriented solutions.

With its strong track record in pioneering the supply of renewable fuels in the EU, UPEI's members remain committed to delivering and embracing new, cost effective solutions which further promote energy efficiency and reduce pollutants and emissions.