

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 1/2021

European Commission supports ten additional sustainable and safe transport infrastructure projects in Europe

The EU is contributing over € 68.6 million to ten projects that will contribute towards the goal of making the transport sector more environmentally efficient as well as improving the safety and sustainability of European rail transport. The projects have been selected under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport Blending Facility rolling call, an instrument specifically designed to mix private financing with EU support. Eight of the projects will deliver key alternative fuels transport (electric, hydrogen and natural gas) for road vehicles, feeding directly into the European Commission's priority to deliver a greener EU: <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/newsroom/european-commission-supports-ten-additional-sustainable-and-safe-transport>

A new normal beyond Covid-19

With its recently published Global Energy and Climate Outlook 2020, the Commission is estimating the effects of the pandemic on the energy system, with a focus on the transport sector. According to this report, electric vehicles (plug-in hybrids and full battery electric) are projected to reach 34% market share in the sales of light duty vehicles in 2030 and 16 % in the fleet (some 3% and 1% for heavy duty vehicles, respectively): https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC123203/kjna30558enn_geco2020.pdf

Clean Air Outlook

As one of its key priorities, the EU sets standards to avoid the buildup of excessive pollution concentrations. As part of the European Green Deal, the EU is revising these standards, to align them more closely with the recommendations of the World Health Organization. It also aims to improve overall EU legislation for clean air, building on the lessons learnt from last year's evaluation of EU rules in this field. Meanwhile, a report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council focused on a second clean air outlook has been published: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0003&from=DE>