



IV ASEM-MGM – Lisbon May 24th to 27th 2017 Mobility and Environmental Sustainability – Concept Paper

Urban mobility systems are worldwide facing a multitude of challenges that need to be addressed. In particular, issues such as traffic congestion, urban pollution and noise, greenhouse gas emissions, safety and security in a urban environment need to be improved in order to give local residents, visitors and daily workers a better quality of live, in a more competitive and safe environment.

Several cities and urban regions have adopted in the past to address these issues, in particular traffic congestion and urban sprawl, by building more infrastructures, mainly for private vehicles, which enhances the use of motorized vehicles and therefore increasing the environmental footprint of mobility. It is for this reason that today, in most cities, mobility is responsible for a large (and many times the majority) of green house gases emissions and local pollution (namely particles and NOx) as well as the consumption of nonrenewable energy namely oil based products.

The goal of a developed, sustainable and competitive city is to provide urban users excellent accessibility (not just mobility) to places, information, jobs, goods, leisure, or education and knowledge. And there are three main ways to improve accessibility. The first is clear and obvious which focus on offering more mobility. More roads, more parking, more public transports, more bike lanes, more sidewalks. The second and third approaches focus on: i) providing more proximity and ii) adopting more connectivity.

Proximity between where we live, our working places, the supermarkets, or the schools that our kids attend is a fantastic a more sustainable way to improve our mobility footprint. Naturally it requires a new approach toward planning our cities, designing our streets, plazas and public places, and requires a new attitude toward sharing and mobility.

Finally, highly connected cities and citizens means that access to information or people can be reached without effectively having to move. Thus, connectivity usually implies less trips, and therefore less, traffic, pollution and GHG emissions.

Despite the approach adopted, successful regions will needs proper regulation and policies capable of guaranteeing how cities will grow while innovative mobility solutions emerge.

Sharing problems and solutions while focusing on a sustainable mobility

With the aim of fostering dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe, presenters from cities of both continents will address and share solutions adopted, both in terms of planning, regulation, policies and technologies adopted, to reach a more sustainable mobility while analyzing the role of the citizens as a key contributor to the final goal.

Examples to be shared include i) redesigning urban space to promote more proximity, improved public transports network (combining buses, trams, metro, ferries, and urban trains), adopting bike/car sharing programs, and electric vehicle programs.

