Transport policies: National and EU policies

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Introduction

- Transport policy is crucial for economic development, sustainability, and regional integration.
- EU regulations and frameworks increasingly shape national transport policies.
- Globalization and climate change necessitate transport policy renovation.
- This presentation compares transport policies of the Czech Republic and Austria, considering EU policy impacts

Thesis Statement

- Analyze transport policies at national (Austria & Czech Republic) and EU levels.
- Focus on objectives, instruments, implementation, and mutual influence.
- Assess how EU transport policy affects national strategies for sustainability, digitalization, and decarbonization

Methodology

- Qualitative comparative analysis of policy documents.
  - Transport Policy of the Czech Republic (2021)
  - Austria's Mobility Master Plan 2030 (2021)
  - EU Transport Policy (2015)
- Comparison focuses on cars, rail, and aviation.
- Thematic categorization approach.

Czech Republic – Vision and Objectives

- Strategic framework for 2021–2027.
- Aims for a transport system that meets mobility needs and supports sustainable economic growth.

- Seeks environmentally sustainable, climate-neutral transport development

Priorities and Structure

Three strategic pillars:

- Effective mobility: Reducing emissions, promoting alternative fuels and forms of transport.
- Territorial cohesion: Balanced infrastructure development.
- Sociaty 4.0: Digitalization and innovation.

Word from a Czech minister of Transportation Martin Kupka /ODS/

Austria – Vision, Objectives, and Strategies

Vision:

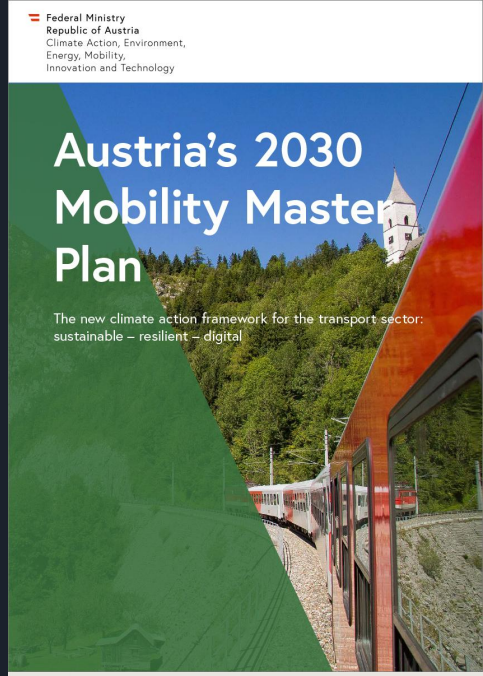
- Achieve climate-neutral mobility by **2040**

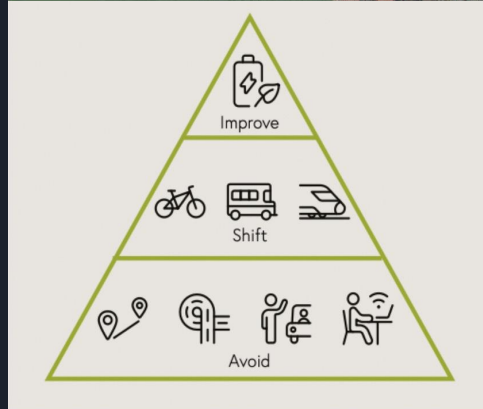
Main Objectives:

- Reduce GHG emissions from transport (currently ~1/3 of total emissions)
- Promote **sustainable mobility** (public transport, walking, cycling)
- Ensure accessibility, inclusion, and innovation

Strategic Approach:

- **Avoid**: Reduce unnecessary trips via spatial planning, digital alternatives
- **Shift**: Promote eco-friendly modes (public transport, walking, cycling)
- **Improve**: Invest in clean technology and energy efficiency

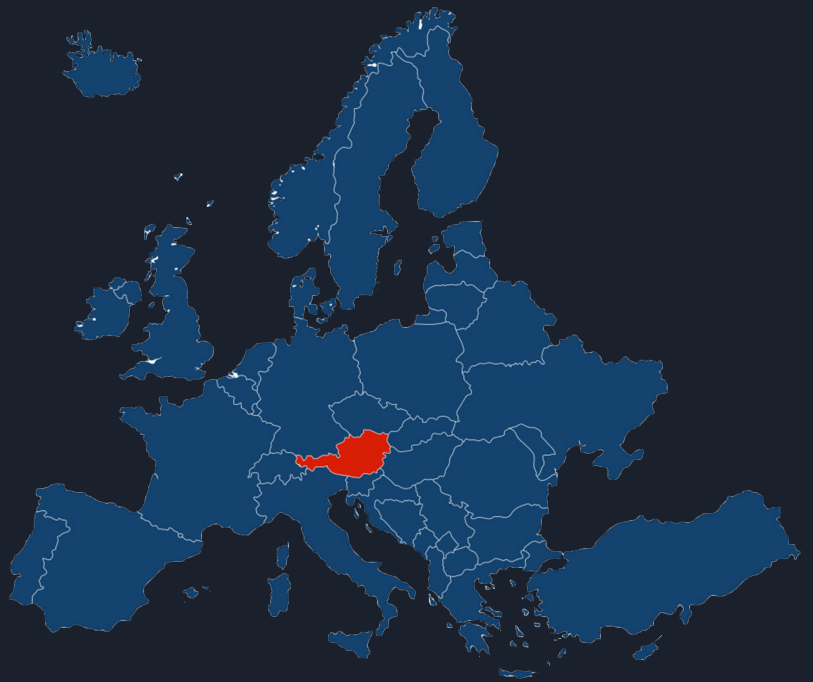




Austria - Sector Specific Approaches

Mode	Main Strategies and Measures	EU Alignment
Cars	- Shift mobility patterns to reduce private car use to 40% and increase eco-mobility share to 60%. - 100% zero-emission new vehicle registrations by 2030. - Develop nationwide charging / fueling infrastructure.	- EU Green Deal ,Fit for 55 objectives. - Supports EU targets for zero-emission transport and sustainable urban mobility.
Trains	- Increase rail freight share to 40% through international cooperation. - Achieve full climate neutrality in rail transport by 2040, with major decarbonization by 2035. - Electrification of rail lines as the primary decarbonization strategy.	- TEN-T objectives - Aligned with EU targets for climate-neutral transport by 2050.
Aviation	- Achieve 100% climate-neutral aviation by 2040. - Promote sustainable fuel adoption. - Integrate aviation into the broader transport system with new mobility concepts and enhanced connectivity.	- EU Green Deal, Fit for 55 targets. - Supports EU efforts to reduce aviation's carbon footprint and promote sustainable aviation fuels.

Austria - EU Influences



Key Challenges:

- High emissions from private transport
- Modal shift difficult in rural/mountainous areas
- Digitalization & public trust in automation
- Multi-level governance complexity

EU Influence:

- Austria's policy aligns with **EU transport policy**
- 80% of freight is cross-border → EU coordination vital
- Rail modal shift needs EU-wide network reform
- Fuel price gaps → "Tank tourism" weakens national efforts

▹ Austria’s mobility transition is both a **national** and **European** challenge, crucial for regional connectivity, climate goals, and long-term economic resilience.

EU - perspectives, visions and frameworks

- Acknowledged limits of mobility-focused policy

Emphasis on:

- Sustainability
- High-quality infrastructure
- User-oriented solutions
- Marked shift to **long-term transport vision**

- 2001 White Paper: promoted modal shift, user focus, sustainability
- 2007 Lisbon Treaty: transport = shared EU–Member State competence
- 2011 White Paper: became long-term strategic vision
- EU Transport Policy 2015

The Sustainability Turn

Green Deal Era (2019–2024)

- Von der Leyen Commission: transport central to Green Deal
- Goals: 90% emissions cut by 2050, boost digitalisation & resilience

Key tools:

- Fit for 55, EU ETS, TEN-T upgrades
- Digitalisation: AI Act, Mobility Data Space

The “Implementation Commission”

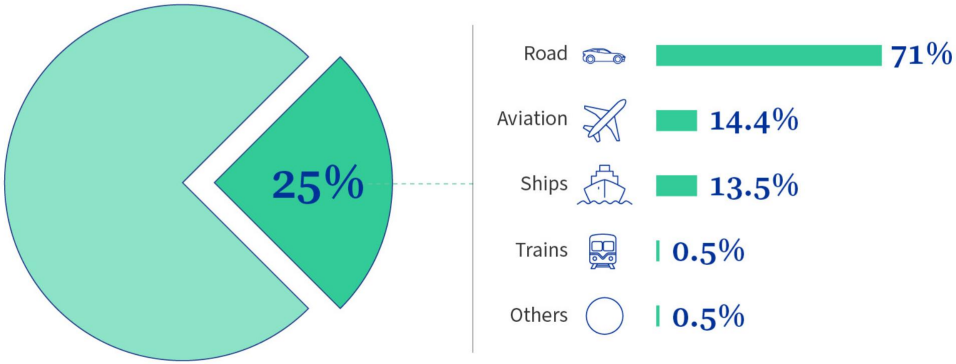
New Commissioner 2024: Apostolos Tzitzikostas

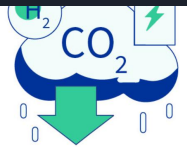
- Focus: turning laws into real progress

Priorities:

- Expand EV infrastructure, modernise rail, support aviation decarbonisation
- Maritime/port competitiveness
- Simplify regulation amid political shift
- Funding uncertainties: future of CEF, MFF negotiations

Transport is responsible for almost 25% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the EU.





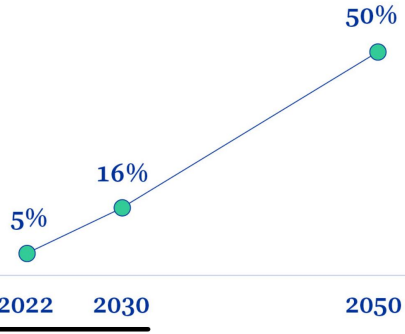
More vehicles powered by electricity and alternative fuels = fewer emissions

There are over

13.4 million

alternative fuel cars and vans in the EU.

It is estimated that the percentage of all cars and vans in the EU that run on alternative fuels will grow tenfold by 2050.



What will change?

passenger cars and trucks **below 3.5 tonnes**

trucks **above 3.5 tonnes**

Road transport

Recharging stations:

→ at least every 60 km on main roads (core TEN-T network)

60 km

by the end of 2025

by the end of 2030

→ every year, the total power output provided through recharging stations grows with the number of registered cars

→ at least two recharging points in each safe and secure parking area (end of 2027) and four by the end of 2030

→ recharging stations also in urban nodes

Derogations for roads with low traffic

Hydrogen refuelling stations:

→ at least every 200 km on main roads (end of 2030)

→ at least one refuelling station in every urban node

→ every refuelling station will have a designed capacity to provide 1 tonne of hydrogen per day, at 700 bar

200 km

Liquefied methane refuelling points:

→ at least along main roads to allow vehicles using methane to circulate throughout the EU

New infrastructure will have to:

→ allow ad-hoc charging

→ accept electronic payments

→ clearly inform users about pricing options

Ports

In the busiest sea ports:

→ at least 90% of container ships and passenger ships to have access to shore-side electricity supply

In most of the inland waterway ports:

→ at least one installation providing shore-side electricity (by 2030)

Airports

Electricity supply for :

→ all aircraft stands next to the terminal by 2025

→ all remote stands by 2030

Airports with fewer than 10 000 flights per year may use a derogation for remote stands.

Comparison - Czech Republic, Austria, and EU

Mode	Czech Republic	Austria	EU Alignment
Cars	- Promote EVs - Charging infrastructure - Car-sharing and fleet renewal	- Reduce private car use to 40% - 100% zero-emission new cars by 2030 - National EV charging network	EU Green Deal Fit for 55 Clean Mobility Package
Trains	- Investment in rail - Electrification - High-speed and single ticketing system	- 40% rail freight share - Full decarbonization by 2040 - Focus on electrification	TEN-T network EU decarbonization targets Interoperability
Aviation	- Use sustainable aviation fuels - Limit short domestic flights - EU aviation integration	Climate-neutral aviation by 2040 - Use of sustainable fuels - Integrated with wider mobility system	Fit for 55 Sustainable Aviation Fuels Initiative EU Green Deal

Conclusion

EU Level

- Common Transport Policy shaped by **Green Deal** and **Smart & Sustainable Mobility Strategy**
- EU provides **direction, funding (TEN-T, CEF)**, and legal tools
- Success depends on strong **coordination with Member States**

🇨🇿 Czech Republic

- Focus on **infrastructure expansion** and **regional connectivity**
- Uses EU funds (**Cohesion Fund, Recovery Plan**)
- Slower pace in **decarbonization**, but alignment is increasing

🇦🇹 Austria

- Ambitious goal: **climate-neutral mobility by 2040**
- Strategy: **Avoid–Shift–Improve** + switch to **renewables**
- Aligned with EU targets, but faces **infrastructure & energy challenges**

Achieving EU transport goals requires:
- Strong national implementation
- Cross-border cooperation
- Balancing climate goals with local realities