The COP 24 climate summit in Katowice featured ‘Transport Day’ to discuss how mobility solutions can help keep global warming under a 1.5°C increase. Transport currently accounts for a quarter of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Solutions in urban areas were high on the agenda at Transport Day. Significant cuts can be made in urban passenger transport, which is responsible for one-third of transport-related CO2 emissions. Several cities and city networks presented their experiences with low-carbon mobility, including Ghent (BE), Lisbon (PT) and Warsaw (PL).
At the Transport Day’s press conference, European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport Violeta Bulc said:

‘Today I reminded representatives from cities and communities that they have a huge role to play in making sustainable choices as attractive as possible. It is the local level that can make space for clean public transport, provide safe and attractive biking and pedestrian infrastructure, and use data to put all available modes at the passenger’s fingertips.’

SUMP Platform member MobiliseYourCity emphasised that mobility measures should be linked with robust quantification to assess their emission reductions. The MobiliseYourCity Partnership is currently finalising a greenhouse gas emission quantification tool.

Prior to the COP24 summit, The European Commission adopted a long-term strategy for a climate neutral Europe by 2050, titled A Clean Planet for All. About the strategy, Bulc said:

‘All transport modes should contribute to the decarbonisation of our mobility system. The goal is to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. This requires a system approach with low and zero emission vehicles, strong increase in rail network capacity, and a much more efficient organisation of the transport system, based on digitalisation; incentives for behavioural changes; alternative fuels and smart infrastructure; and global commitments. All this driven by innovation and investments.’

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also emphasises that all transport modes should make a contribution to decarbonisation. To EurActiv, IPCC’s Diana Urge-Vorsatz said: ‘There is no doubt we will have to consider all mobility-related options. These do include electromobility, biofuels, shared mobility and mobility services.’

Slocat Global Status Report

COP 24 Transport Day also marked the launch of Transport and Climate Change Global Status Report published by SLoCaT. The report is a resource for policy-makers and describes demand and emission trends and the sector’s potential to contribute to the Paris Agreement 1.5°C target.

Links

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)

Transport Day

Official press release

SLoCaT Transport and Climate Change Global Status Report