

ECF European Cyclists' Federation

Rue Joseph II 166 • 1000 Brussels, Belgium
tel: +32 2 234 38 74 • fax: +32 2 234 38 75
office@ecf.com • www.ecf.com

Account No 210-033 98 07-68 • Fortis Banque
Rond Point Schuman 10 • 1040 Brussels, Belgium
BIC: GEBABEBB-36A • IBAN: BE82 2100 3398 0768

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European Parliamentary Elections 2009: ECF draft letter to Candidate MEPs

Dear Candidate for the next European Parliament,

Cycling is life. It is a fun and natural means of transportation, quick, healthy and cost-efficient. It contributes to help solve problems our continent faces today: bad air quality, excessive noise levels and traffic congestion in urban areas; climate change; oil dependency; increasing health problems among citizens caused by a lack of physical activity. The good message is: cycling transport can be “produced” as much as any other means of transport. Therefore we ask your political support towards cycling during the next term of the European Parliament:

- 1) **Interparliamentary Group for Cycling:** Support its creation in the European Parliament and become a member of it.
- 2) **Cycling in the Future TEN-T:** Include the EuroVelo cycle route network, consisting of 12 European cycle routes totaling 66,000kms, in the future trans-European transport network. Further information: www.eurovelo.org
- 3) **Cycling and Safe car fronts:** Put pressure on Euro NCAP to open up its current pedestrian-based car-crash tests to cyclists. Research has shown that outer air bags on car fronts can prevent many severe injuries and save many cyclists' lives. Further information: http://www.ecf.com/3270_1
- 4) **Cycling and Clean Air:** Urge the European Commission to propose legislation to regulate pollutant emissions from mopeds. Research has shown that these vehicles emit a great deal of particulate matter. Further information: http://media.fietsersbond.nl/VVF/VVF_2_2008_fijnstof.pdf (in Dutch)
- 5) **Reduced VAT for bicycles:** Support the adoption of a reduced VAT for the sales of bicycles and bicycle components as well as bicycle reparation. Further information: http://www.ecf.com/3448_1

- 6) **Cycling in the Action Plan on Urban Mobility:** At this point, there is no European bicycle policy in place. The Action Plan could be the starting point if it contains the ECF key demands (7-10):
- 7) **European Bicycle Officer:** Create this position within the European Commissions, preferably at DG TREN. Cycling has many angles and therefore needs a coherent approach.
- 8) **Statistics on cycling:** Set up a project on thorough research, data and statistics on cycling in Europe. This is the basis for good policy.
- 9) **10% for cycling:** Spend 1 € out of 10 € of all EU infrastructure financial resources on cycling.
- 10) **Clear objectives:** Set clear objectives for the modal share of cycling and for cyclists' safety.

For further information on the ECF position on the Urban Mobility Action Plan:

http://www.ecf.com/3082_1