The Paris Process for Mobility and Climate (PPMC), a joint initiative of Movin’ On and the Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) is a driving force behind bringing transport actors together and helping them make a lasting impact at COP24.

Welcome to volume 1 of the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) COP24 newsletter! Every other day we bring you the latest in sustainable transport from the negotiations and events in Katowice.

Today's newsletter is all about ambition. This COP must deliver a concrete action plan to deliver on the Paris Agreement, and transport decarbonisation must play a crucial role.

COP24 Reporting

Transport Ambition Needed Now

For the next two weeks the international climate community gathers in Katowice, Poland, a familiar country for climate veterans. The focus of this year’s UN climate conference (known as COP24) is determining the actual implementation of the
Paris Agreement. These bi-daily reports will keep you up to date on the activities of the transport community, and the key takeaways from the COP for the transport sector.

At the start of the conference it is hard to tell how concrete, ambitious and robust the final COP decision will be. SLoCaT is positive that good progress can be made, but wants to emphasize the following key messages to everyone involved:

- Decarbonisation of the transport sector by 2050 is possible, but requires rapid and concerted action
- Sustainable transport is necessary for countries to deliver on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Safe, low carbon, efficient and affordable mobility for all is essential to sustainable human development and must be enabled in all sustainable development policies.
- Investments in low carbon transport can yield substantial, long-term benefits by increasing social cohesion and equity and reducing disability and deaths
- Innovative mobility solutions have the potential to transform transport systems into more efficient, low carbon, people-centered and planet-sensitive solutions
- The global transport community stands ready to support the development and implementation of country, city and company actions on climate change and sustainable transport

The Stakes

COP24 is the moment to define the future of climate action by raising post-2020 ambition. Key to this is the Talanoa Dialogue, the Fijian presidency’s interpretation of the facilitative dialogue, established by the Paris Agreement to investigate whether long-term goals of the agreement are on track.

PPMC made a Talanoa Dialogue submission in April, and in November the Transforming Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI), with SLoCaT and members Despacio (Colombia) and CAF, co-organized a workshop entitled “Talanoa Dialogue on urban mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean” during the Cities Conference II by UN ECLAC in Santiago.

Moreover, parties need to deliver a common implementation guide, the "Paris Rulebook" (known officially as the Paris Agreement Work Programme), which deals with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and focuses on topics related to
communication, finance, structure of NDCs, transparency and adaptation. Finalising the Paris Rulebook is critical to operationalising the Paris Agreement, fueling the transition to sustainable transport more efficiently, rapidly and sustainably.

From Bonn to Bangkok

The Talanoa Dialogue convened at the reoccurring mid-year sessions in Bonn in May 2018, with storytelling methods aimed to create more understanding and awareness about each country’s challenges and ambition. Progress on the Paris Rulebook, assessed by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC as “satisfactory”, led to a follow-up session in Bangkok in September 2018. Uneven progress there resulted in a 300 plus-page document, which has streamlined all issues into one cohesive report, but key obstacles still remain to be solved at COP24, including key implementation pathways for transport and other sectors.

Urgency and Clarity

With negotiations as a backdrop, the scientific community underlined the need for more climate action is still needed. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5DS was a highly anticipated report, which showed that the 1.5 degrees target is not out of reach yet, but at current emission levels will occur within 14 years. Various emission reduction pathways make the temperature goal still achievable, but significant reductions must take place soon: it is estimated that global transport emissions will need to be reduced to 2 to 3 Gt CO2 per year by 2050 to meet Paris Agreement mitigation targets. Reinforcing this urgency, this year’s UNEP Emissions Gap Report showed that emissions must peak by 2020 to have a good chance to keep warming between 1.5 to 2 degrees. This is not yet reflected in the ambitions of the current NDCs. Both reports highlight the significance of decarbonisation of the transport sector and possibilities to redefine transport in a new, sustainable way.
Driving ambition further

In the opening days of the conference, the transport sector was front and center. José Mendes, First Secretary of State for Mobility of Portugal and Chair of the Transport Decarbonisation Alliance, emphasized increasing momentum and awareness among world leaders for transport at the High–Level E–Mobility Summit. As part of the Marrakech Partnership High–Level Event, Michał Kurtyka, the COP24 President, launched the Katowice Partnership for E-Mobility, which is endorsed by 38 countries and 15 organisations, networks or individuals from business or local and regional governments, including ICLEI, ITDP, PPMC, UITP, the World Bank and the Transport Decarbonisation Alliance.

The partnership emphasizes the importance of better spatial planning and strategic investments with green public procurement, particularly with the expansion of low emission public and non–motorised transport networks.

While this high level emphasis is helpful and much needed, SLoCaT underscores that higher ambition for transport is essential to fulfill the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We are fully committed to raising ambition levels further these coming weeks.

Low Carbon Transport Facts and Figures

Decarbonization of the transport sector by 2050 is possible, but requires rapid and concerted action to avoid the business as usual (BAU) scenario of over 18 Gt of transport CO2 emissions.

Source: Transport and Climate Change 2018 Global Status Report

A big–picture analysis of transport activities at global, regional and national levels, monitoring transport contributions to global agendas and highlighting linkages between transport climate action and development co–benefits.
Tracking Transport Progress
The transport community has come a long way in building the case for low carbon transport and raising awareness and ambition in the COP process

Flashback to COP14: Poznań
It might be hard to imagine now, but the sustainable transport community first came together at COP14 (Poznań) to link decarbonising transport to climate action. A year before the SLoCaT Partnership was founded, there were only eight side events focused on transport, and the presence of transport was limited. Today, SLoCaT consists of more than 90 organizations, and 50+ transport–focused events will take place at at COP24.

Urban Mobility Solutions to Tackle Climate Change

Transport Day 2018 will highlight the strong role of cities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality by implementing measures in the transport sector. Importantly, the event will address how national governments can support the potential of cities for successful sustainable urban mobility action.

Session themes include: Electrification of Public Transport; Financing Transformation & Low Carbon Mobility; Adapting to New Climate in the Transport Sector; Climate Action in Urban Transport; Innovations in Low Carbon Transport; and Walking & Cycling. See the programme and register here!

This Transport Day is jointly organised by the European Commission's CIVITAS Initiative, SLoCaT on behalf of the PPMC, and is hosted and supported by the City of Katowice.

Find us at upcoming events on Dec 7th:

- Transport Decarbonisation Alliance – 10:00–10:30, Action Hub
- Transport Decarbonisation – How to make it happen! – 10:30–12:30, French Pavilion
- Smart and Green Transport for Sufficient Society – 10:00–11:15, Japan Pavilion
• Marrakech Partnership on Transport: How to include transport in NDCs – 11:00–12:00, Action Hub
• MP Transport: How to include transport in NDCs – 11:00–12:00, Action Hub
• Shared Mobility: The Power to Slash CO2 – 13:00–14:00, Action Hub
• Global Climate Action event – Transport (UNFCCC) – 13:00–18:00, COP Venue
• Contributions of international transport to global climate mitigation – 16:45 – 18:15, Room 5
• Policy Pathways for Decarbonising Transport – 18:30 – 20:00, Room 5

Don't Miss the Launch of the Transport Climate Change Global Status Report (TCC GSR) – Dec 8th, 9:00–10:00, Action Hub