



March 10, 2022

Subject: Cities, hauliers, companies, health organisations and civil society call for decision-makers to put vans on a credible path to zero emission and increase the CO₂ reduction ambition

Dear Members of the European Parliament,
Dear Ministers of the European Council,
Dear Permanent Representatives,

Vans emissions are a growing European problem. With the boom in home deliveries, van sales are surging¹ but progress to clean them up has been at a standstill with climate emissions in 2020 the same level as 2017.² As a result vans are by far the fastest growing climate problem in road transport (+58% compared to 1990). They also greatly contribute to air pollution and represent 14% of NOx emissions from vehicles in cities, adversely impacting the 70% of Europeans living in urban areas.³

Considering the increasing role of vans in our lives, we will face unprecedented challenges in reaching our emission targets if action is not taken immediately. Our businesses, our health, our air and our planet cannot afford to have this van problem overlooked as it often has been until today. Decision makers should focus their efforts as well on vans and in an equally weighted manner as it has been done for cars in the joint cars and vans CO₂ emission file.⁴

¹ +57% between 2012 and 2019

² The average emissions of new vans in 2017 and 2020 was 156 gCO₂/km according to the European Environment Agency (EEA). [Link](#)

³ Source: The ICCT, 'Remote sensing of motor vehicle emissions in Paris' ([Link](#)) and JRC ([Link](#)).

⁴ European Commission proposal for amending the Regulation (EU) 2019/631, see [link](#)

We, the undersigned cities, companies, hauliers, environmental and health organisations, are calling on decision-makers to **increase the ambition of the proposed van CO₂ emission targets beyond the European Commission proposal** to put vans on a credible path to zero- emission and increase the supply of affordable, zero- emission vans.

The undersigned fully support that **all new vans must be zero emission from 2035 onwards**. Yet, more ambition is needed early on during the 2020s to successfully roll out clean vans by 2035. **CO₂ targets must be increased in the 2020s** as the current EU van CO₂ targets are not sufficient given they don't require van makers to increase their sales of zero emission vans above a 10% share throughout this decade.

Current evidence and research show great potential for fast electrification of vans in the 2020s⁵ and the demand for electric vans is very strong, yet van makers are failing to meet it.⁶ More ambitious CO₂ targets are key to democratise electric vans and guarantee that the demand is met with mass-market and affordable zero emission vans. Resulting advantages are numerous (as further detailed below): people benefit from better air quality, businesses have access to affordable clean vans, hauliers can advance their transition to zero emission transport and together we can make progress towards our climate targets.

We, the undersigned cities, need to shift to zero- emission vans to clean up the air we breathe and to ensure deliveries can continue in the current and forthcoming zero and low emission zones.

We, the undersigned transport and logistics operators, are calling on decision-makers to increase the supply of zero- emission vans to ensure that we can transition to zero- emission transport with affordable zero- emission vans.

We, the undersigned companies, are committed to accelerating the transition to electric vans. We need strong policy frameworks to procure affordable, mass market zero- emission vans for our fleets and to create real certainty to expand our e-mobility activities.

We, the undersigned environmental organisations, urge policy-makers to uphold the European Green Deal climate ambition for all vehicle categories and to make transport drastically less polluting, especially in cities. The climate emergency and its devastating impacts, here and now, calls for urgent action.

We, the undersigned health organisations, ask policy makers to take into account the 307,000 premature deaths annually due to fine particulate matter in the 27 EU Member States in 2019.⁷ 400,000 premature deaths caused by air pollution. People have a right to clean air across Europe. This is a major opportunity to improve life quality right now and for our future generations.

⁵ See “Hitting the EV Inflection Point”, report from BloombergNEF, [link](#)

⁶ Customers are waiting to buy more than 208,000 zero emission vans (see [link](#)), but cannot make these purchases until supply increases.

⁷ EEA – December 2021 - Air pollution: how it affects our health, see [link](#)

Thus, we ask you **to strengthen CO₂ emissions targets for vans** beyond the European Commission proposal as part of the revision of the CO₂ standards regulation for cars and vans. This is the last opportunity to prevent vans from being overlooked and accelerate the uptake of zero emission vans - we urge you to take it.

Yours sincerely,
The signatories below

The following European cities support this letter



The following city organisations support this letter



C40 Cities - A global network of mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis

C40 is a network of mayors representing nearly **100** global megacities collaborating to deliver the urgent action needed to confront the climate crisis.

The C40 network is composed of the following [city members](#).

POLIS - promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions

Polis is the leading network of **98** European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport.

The POLIS network is composed of the following [city members](#).

The following logistic operators support this letter



European Clean Trucking Alliance- the leading demand-side voice in Brussels calling for zero emission trucks

The ECTA is a broad coalition that brings together around **40** of Europe's largest transport and logistic companies in an alliance calling for an acceleration of the transition to sustainable, zero-emission freight transport. ECTA members employ over 2.3 million people, the total revenue of ECTA members is over EUR 400 billion and ECTA members use a total road fleet size of over 380,000 vehicles.

The European Clean Trucking Alliance is composed of the following [members](#).

The following businesses support this letter

Climate Group - EV100 - Making electric transport the new normal by 2030

EV100 is our global initiative bringing together forward looking **121** companies committed to accelerating the transition to electric vehicles



(EVs).

Climate Group/EV 100 is composed of the following [members](#).

The following environmental organisations support this letter



Clean Cities Campaign - Taking action to protect our health and the climate!

The Clean Cities Campaign is a European coalition of NGOs and grassroots groups aiming to encourage cities to transition to zero-emission mobility by 2030. The campaign champions active, shared and electric mobility for a more liveable and sustainable urban future, which also requires phasing-out polluting vehicles from cities within a decade. The Clean Cities Campaign consists of **52** supporters.

The Clean Cities Campaign is composed of the [members](#).



Transport & Environment - Europe's leading clean transport campaign group.

T&E is currently supported by **73** organisations (63 members and 10 supporters) in 24 countries. T&E has shaped some of Europe's most important environmental laws. It played a key role in getting the EU to set the world's most ambitious CO2 standards for cars and trucks and also helped uncover the dieselgate scandal. T&E's vision is a zero-emission mobility system that is affordable and has minimal impacts on our health, climate and environment.

Transport & Environment is composed of the following [members](#).

The following health groups support this letter



European Public Health Alliance

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is the largest European umbrella NGO advocating for better public health. EPHA is supporting a new campaign called [Medics for Clean Air](#) to help healthcare professionals to speak out about the public health emergency caused by road transport pollution in Europe.

The European Public Health Alliance is composed of the following [members](#).



European Respiratory Society

ERS is one of the leading medical organisations in the respiratory field, with a growing membership spanning over **160** countries. ERS prioritises science, education and advocacy in order to promote lung health, alleviate suffering from disease and drive standards for respiratory medicine globally.