

POLITICAL DECLARATION ON BORDERLESS ACCESS TO E-MOBILITY SERVICES WITHIN THE BENELUX

Considering:

- The 2030 EU climate and energy framework, which sets three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), at least 27% share for renewable energy and at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency;
- The European Commission's Communication "Towards the broadest use of alternative fuels – an Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure" of 8 November 2017, supporting collaboration between public and private actors regarding access to timely, reliable information about the location and availability of recharging or refueling points, as well as seamless and interoperable payment services;
- The European Commission's Communication "An agenda for a socially fair transition towards clean, competitive and connected mobility for all" of 31 May 2017, according to which the deployment of a network of recharging points covering evenly the whole EU road network, represents another key enabling condition for zero- emission mobility;
- The European Commission's Communication "A European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility" of 20 July 2016, according to which further effort should be made to foster the creation of an EU-wide e-mobility services market, such as the cross-border interoperability of payments and the provision of real-time information on charging points;
- The outcome of the Paris Conference of Parties in December 2015, and in particular the adoption of a new legally-binding climate Agreement with the aim of holding global warming well below 2°C and of pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C;
- Recommendation M(2015)10 of the Benelux Committee of Ministers of 19 October 2015 on cooperation in the field of the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure;
- Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure;
- The European Commission's Communication "Clean Power for Transport: A European alternative fuels strategy" of 24 January 2013, aiming to facilitate the development of a single market for alternative fuels for transport in Europe.

Taking into account:

- Electricity has the potential to increase the energy efficiency of road vehicles and to contribute to a CO₂ reduction in transport and improve air quality;
- The development of electric vehicles (EV) is correlated to the access to charging infrastructure and services;
- The Benelux-region counts in June 2017 a quarter of all registered plug-in hybrid/battery electric passenger cars and almost a third of EV charging points in the EU-28;

- The e-mobility market of services provides the EV-driver with solutions for locating and accessing EV charging points, user-identification and payment;
- The importance of regional cooperation for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure;
- The potential of the Benelux region as frontrunners in the cross-border deployment of e-mobility market of services.

Recognizing:

- The recommendations of the report of the Sustainable Transport Forum's sub-group to foster the creation of an electromobility market of services (SGEMS);
- The national policy frameworks of the Benelux countries, which underline the need for regional cooperation in the Benelux context.

THE BENELUX GOVERNMENTS,

Set as an ambition:

- That publicly accessible charging infrastructure in the Benelux is easily accessible for all EV drivers within the Benelux, in a non-discriminatory way;
- That EV drivers are able to pay for charging sessions on ad hoc basis or by using their own e-mobility service contract;
- That charging tariffs are transparent and fair for all consumers.

And express their dedication to:

- Support the relevant players in their efforts to interconnect the public charging infrastructure in the Benelux countries and to make it easily accessible for all EV drivers within the Benelux, by providing these players with a platform for harmonization and cooperation;
- Encourage the publication of real-time information on location, specifications and status of EV charging points in openly available and re-useable datasets;
- Facilitate cross-border deployment of e-mobility services, in particular user-identification and payment solutions;
- Encourage the adoption and further development by the relevant players of common - and preferably open and standardized – communication protocols for the connection of e-mobility services and charging infrastructure;
- Follow the key principles of price transparency, cost effectiveness (avoiding unnecessary costs) and non-discriminatory accessibility, and to foster interoperability, open communication standards and open market models when stimulating the deployment of charging infrastructure and the e-mobility market of (charging) services;

- Work together at EU-level, for example by coordinated implementation of EU Directives on the deployment of charging infrastructure, and to support a European plan of action regarding the guarantee of cross-border access to charging infrastructure and the e-mobility market of services;
- Use the Benelux Union to identify joint actions to contribute to the above-mentioned objectives.

Nature of the Political Declaration

This document records a political intent alone. It is not intended to establish any legal commitments.

Signatories

For government of the Flemish Region

For government of the Walloon Region

For government of the Brussels Capital Region

For government of Luxembourg

For government of The Netherlands