

# EU Transport Policy

## Transport and travelling: easier, safer, cleaner



A close-up photograph of Wim van de Camp, a man with grey hair, wearing a white shirt, a blue and yellow striped tie, and a bright yellow high-visibility vest. He is holding a small, colorful toy motorcycle (orange, black, and white) with both hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building. A dark blue circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

***“For an innovative  
EU economy  
the EPP Group creates  
conditions for intelligent  
transport systems and a  
common policy for rail,  
road, inland waterways,  
maritime and air transport”***

**Wim van de Camp** MEP (NL)  
EPP Group Coordinator in  
the Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN) of the  
European Parliament



# 1. What is EU Transport Policy? What does it do for you?

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Travelling in the European Union is easier than ever before. We enjoy open borders and an ever-increasing number of travel options. Thanks to the efforts of the EPP Group in the European Parliament in the area of transport policy, easy travel has become a reality and a right for millions of citizens.

Greater mobility makes it easier to find a job or education in other EU countries. This stimulates competitiveness, thus providing a catalyst for economic development and prosperity. The EPP Group supports policies that enable trade and contacts between all European nations.

The EPP Group has always been the driving force for increased and better rights for passengers, whilst simultaneously promoting safer skies, seas, rail and roads, with less pollution.

A lot has been achieved, but more needs to be done. The EPP Group in the European Parliament is committed to putting forward a series of key actions in the transport sector that will benefit all citizens across the continent.





***“Thanks to EPP Group efforts, passenger rights are now provided for all modes of transport. We work hard to make travelling in Europe a pleasure for citizens. Enhancing air passenger rights means creating more transparency, easier access to compensation and better information”***

**Georges Bach** MEP (LU),  
EPP Group Member of the  
Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN)  
in the European  
Parliament



## 2. Easier transport

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Easier transport saves time and money. The EPP Group aims to boost mobility in order to improve connections between people and contribute to economic growth in the EU. Fully connecting all parts of Europe will stimulate social cohesion, especially between the eastern and western parts of the continent.

The EPP Group supports all EU projects aimed at smarter and more interconnected transport. Transport does not stop at borders: railways, roads and ports need to be connected optimally.

Therefore, the EPP Group gives priority to the **Trans-European Network (TEN-T)**, which funds projects in every EU Member State and covers road, rail, maritime, inland waterways and air transport. With a budget of €26 billion up to 2020 TEN-T not only ensures that we can get to where we need to be more quickly, but also helps business flourish and provides jobs for millions of people involved in projects  
This core network in Europe should connect:

- 94 main ports with rail and road links;
- 38 key airports with rail connections into major cities;
- 15.000 km of railway line upgraded to high speed;
- 35 cross-border projects to reduce bottlenecks.

These rail connections, roads, bridges and tunnels will make it easier for citizens to commute, go on holiday or do business.

A man in a pilot's uniform is sitting in the cockpit of a red biplane. The plane is on an airfield, and a large blue hangar is visible in the background. The man is looking forward, and the plane's propeller is visible in the foreground.

***“The EPP Group supports a new configuration of the Air Traffic Management system to ensure flight efficiency in our busy open air space, and the continued safety of passengers”***

**Marian Jean Marinescu** MEP (RO)  
EPP Group Vice-Coordinator  
in the Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN)  
of the European Parliament

### 3. Safer transport

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The EPP Group strives to provide the highest standards of safety for all means of transport.

Road transport is the most widely used means of travel in the European Union. Although the number of road fatalities is declining across Europe, the EPP Group remains active in promoting common rules, technical standards and awareness campaigns to further decrease the number of fatalities caused by road accidents.

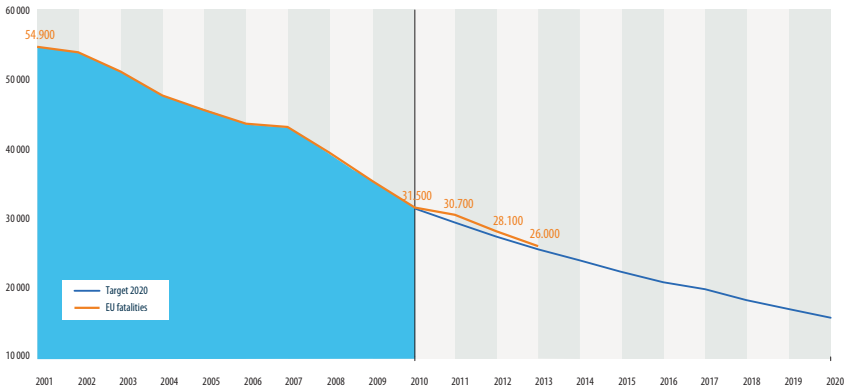
New services can help prevent even more fatal accidents. Advanced in-vehicle safety and driver assistance systems intervene in dangerous situations. This is a much needed development. More than 90% of all accidents are caused by human error. Some examples of Intelligent Transportation Systems include:

- **eCall:** a device in cars which automatically sends GPS coordinates to emergency agencies after a serious accident. This is mandatory in new cars sold from 2018 onward, estimated to save 2.500 lives per year.
- **Smart digital tachograph:** a high tech device for better controlling the minimum rest time of truck drivers will be introduced in 2018. Using the latest technology, smart tachographs communicate with roadside enforcement offices without stopping the vehicle. The EPP Group insists on adequate training of enforcement officers.



We adopted a number of important measures in the Road Safety Programme in 2011, including mandatory seat belt reminders in cars and promoting safer road infrastructure. Since then, road fatalities have decreased each year. The EPP Group will continue to demand for stricter monitoring and controls to ensure safer mobility for European citizens.

### Road fatalities in the EU since 2001



Source: - CARE (EU road accidents database)

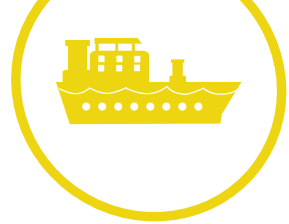
<http://ec.europa.eu/roadsafety>



A close-up portrait of Luis de Grandes Pascual, a man with grey hair and a beard, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text. The top part of the circle is light blue, and the bottom part is a darker teal. The text is white and follows the curve of the circle.

*“The EPP Group strongly supports maritime transport due to its many advantages over other modalities of transport. Our Group will continue its active support, with a specific emphasis on enhancing environmental protection measures”*

**Luis de Grandes Pascual** MEP  
(ES) EPP Group Member of the  
Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN)  
in the European  
Parliament




## 4. Cleaner transport

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The EPP Group supports promoting cleaner transport modes that cause less pollution and global warming. Making transport cleaner requires investment in innovative technologies and promotion of EU-wide standards. EU laws make it possible that transport users contribute to the cost of Europe's road infrastructure via charges linked to the dimensions of their vehicle and the distances travelled. To protect our health and environment, we encourage further measures such as:

- **Eurovignette:** a vignette makes it financially attractive for truck drivers to avoid certain busy road stretches during peak hours. In 2011, the EPP Group obliged EU Finance Ministers to be transparent about how they use revenues: the money must be reinvested in transport infrastructure, in particular for support of the Trans-European Network (TEN-T).
- **Euro 6:** since 2014, new diesel trucks and buses must use a more cleaner engine than was ever used before. The so called euro 6 type engines last longer and emit less harmful particles and NOx (oxides of nitrogen), to the benefit of our health and environment.

The EPP Group is in favour of stimulating freight and passenger transport via rail and water. These modes of transport are not only friendlier to the environment, but with the advances in technology, rail travel is becoming both safer and more comfortable. Crucially, it is also becoming much faster, saving you time and money. Providing a link between mainland Europe, its islands and more disconnected regions places maritime transport at the core of the European way of life, and is essential for business. The EPP Group calls for increased investments in rail and waterways to support cleaner transport across Europe.

A portrait of Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a grey blazer and a yellow and purple patterned scarf. She is smiling and resting her chin on her hand. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

*“Europe must ensure the free movement of workers across borders, but safeguard against the exploitation of drivers. The EPP Group fights malpractice and exploitation across all transport sectors”*

**Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska**  
MEP (PL) EPP Group Member  
of the Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN)  
in the European  
Parliament

## 5. Stronger passenger rights

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Until recently, passengers travelling by plane, train, coach or ship who faced delays and cancellations found it hard to obtain compensation. The procedure was costly and time-consuming and too often people gave up their rights.

Thanks to the efforts of the EPP Group a clear set of new rules provide effective support and compensation. Today, millions of European holiday-makers and business travellers can travel across Europe knowing if something goes wrong during their trip they are covered by comprehensive passenger rights.

European citizens are protected when it comes to such issues as:

- Pricing
- Journey information
- Reservations
- Assistance if you are disabled
- Damaged luggage
- Accidents
- Delays
- Cancellations and boarding denial

The EPP Group has committed itself to placing users at the heart of transport policy, striving to make sure you know what your rights are and providers know what they have to do to meet them. For millions of European citizens travel has become a right.



*"It is always a tragedy when people lose their lives in road accidents. The EU has managed to reduce the number of road fatalities, but more needs to be done to achieve the goal of 'Vision Zero'. Every single life counts."*

**Dieter-L. Koch** MEP (DE)  
EPP Group Vice-Chair of  
the Transport and Tourism  
Committee (TRAN) of the  
European Parliament

## 6. Interesting numbers & facts

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The EU has more than:

- **4.5 million km of paved roads**
- **212.500 km of railway lines**
- **41.000 km of navigable inland waterways**
- **842 million airline passengers per year**

Source: Eurostat



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