

A Call for Action

E-MOBILITY: An OPPORTUNITY for Central & Eastern Europe

On the occasion of the **Czech Presidency** of the Council of the European Union, in the context of the worsening **climate crisis**, war in Ukraine and a dramatic increase in **energy prices** which demands we **end our dependence** on imported fossil fuels, we, the undersigned **associations from Central & Eastern Europe (CEE)**, with member companies active throughout the value chain, see the opportunity that e-mobility presents for our countries and the region as a whole, and call upon our governments to **seize this opportunity**.

There are two interrelated opportunities

- 1) To make zero emission transport **accessible to the people** of CEE, and thereby improve air quality and **quality of life** for people in CEE
- 2) To actively join the **industrial revolution**, and the emergence of new technologies, industries and **careers** that electrification is bringing.

To seize these twin opportunities, CEE countries need:

- 1) Political leadership & Ambition
 - **Be ambitious**, provide political leadership and 'lean in' to this transition
 - **Support** and empower lower-level officials to be creative, solve problems, try new things, take risks to make this transition successful
- 2) Public education and role modeling
 - **Educate** the public, media, and others about the benefits of the e-mobility transition and address **false rumors** and **fear-mongering**
 - **Lead** by example: use electric vehicles (EVs)
 - **Highlight** companies involved in the transition, share their success stories
 - **Help** people to accept EVs as the 'new normal'
- 3) Evolution of workforce and industry
 - **Focus** industrial policy on new technologies, industries and workforce needs to attract investors
 - **Support** local companies active in the energy transition, **motivate** others to follow them
 - **Re- and up-skill** the workers of today and develop curricula, internships, and workforce development programs for young people
- 4) Make national regulatory frameworks fit for purpose
 - **Ensure** relevant laws, such as electricity market design, building codes, fire safety standards, land use and access regulations, and more are up-to-date and fit for the purpose of the e-mobility transition
 - **Establish**, update, and implement National Action Plans to state national objectives and guide local actions
 - **Ensure** that national regulators understand the needs of, and prioritize, technologies and measures to electrify and decarbonize the economy

5) Get EVs on the roads

- **Finalize** the EU CO2 Standards for Cars and Vans regulation to codify the phase-out of combustion engine vehicles and set the direction of the market
- **Procure** EVs for public fleets, be it passenger cars, police vehicles, municipal buses, or special purpose vehicles
- **Work** directly with vehicle OEMs and importers to make sufficient numbers of EVs available in CEE countries, and in a timely manner
- **Establish** bonus programs or other supportive measures to incentivize the purchase of cleaner vehicles & reduce the import of more polluting ones
- **Introduce** purchase subsidies for EVs - possibly by making available funds already allocated to, but not yet spent by, Member States
- Further **incentivize** the use of EVs through additional benefits such as free parking, use of bus/high-occupancy vehicle lanes, and more
- **Establish** Low / Zero emission zones in cities

6) Support the deployment of charging infrastructure

- **Support** ambitious targets for LDVs and HDVs in the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation, as these are needed in early stage for CEE markets
- Public authorities should work with network operators to **streamline** and **simplify** the process for permitting of charging infrastructure and related electrical needs; establish **'one stop shops'** to coordinate between them
- **Call for** adequate ducting, cabling, and charging requirements for existing, new, and renovated buildings in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and then in national implementing legislation
- **Promote** the 'right to plug' to help residents install their own charging station
- **Establish** open and competitive grant programs for EV infrastructure deployment - especially at highway locations
- **Invest** in the initial deployments of charging stations and locations for HDVs and work with network operators to ensure sufficient power at those locations

7) Update the electricity distribution system

- National regulators must **mandate** updated approaches from network operators regarding charging infrastructure and other decarbonization technologies to speed up and simplify their deployment
- **Plan forward** and invest funds to ensure grids are prepared to support growing loads, especially for high powered HDV charging infrastructure
- **Introduce** network tariff and rate structures to support the deployment of charging infrastructure in low-utilization environments
- **Ensure** national regulations permit innovations such as V2X and flexibility markets

8) Funding schemes to help the transition of Central European Countries

- **Use** instruments like the Just Transition Fund to support those who will lose jobs in the transition and help prepare them for new ones
- **Introduce** new supportive schemes and tools for CEE countries lagging in the transition

Czech E-mobility Platform



Slovak EV Association



Polish Alternative
Fuels Association

