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Annual Meeting

# THE ITALIAN SYSTEM AND THE PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**BRUSSELS, 4 FEBRUARY 2026**

**DRIVERS FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY  
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

prepared by

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Sustainable mobility is a fundamental pillar of economic, social and environmental development and is defined by the United Nations as a safe, accessible, efficient, and resilient transport system that minimises environmental impact.

Data from the European Environment Agency show that the transport sector is still one of the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the EU: after a sharp reduction in 2020 during the pandemic, emissions have risen again, and it is expected that only in 2029 will domestic transport fall below 1990 levels, while international transport will continue to increase.

Light and commercial vehicles are the biggest contributors to direct emissions and the European vehicle fleet is on average very old, with cars, vans, trucks and buses over 11 years old, slowing down the decarbonisation process.

In this context, the European Union has defined a roadmap towards zero emissions by 2050, which requires a profound transformation of the mobility system.

### **The five themes to be developed**

Smart infrastructures, such as smart roads, ports, and airports, enable improved traffic flow management, enhanced safety, and support the electrification of transport through digitised networks and systems.

The interconnection of transport modes enables the development of more efficient intermodal systems, favouring a modal rebalancing towards solutions with lower environmental impact than road transport.

Safe and efficient transport systems aim to reduce accidents and emissions over the entire life cycle of vehicles by promoting the use of renewable energy and cleaner technologies. Connectivity and automation improve travel safety, service accessibility, and traffic management, and this is achieved through the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Finally, Mobility as a Service and last-mile logistics integrate user-centric digital services, making the mobility of people and goods more efficient, accessible, and sustainable.