

## EDITORIAL

Dear "Cities for Cyclists" members,

After the successful Velo-city 2011 conference in Seville the annual summit (International Transport Forum) of the 52 ministers of transport from 52 OECD countries in Leipzig (Germany) was the next important international event for ECF. As cycling was almost totally forgotten at the previous summits we decided to work on the mission: 'Cycling on the agenda of the ITF'. Via the charter of Seville we linked the Velo-city 2011 conference to the ITF 2011, with the clear message at the end: *Nowadays many cities are moving away from car-oriented transport policies and towards the concept of 'cities for the people' by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. Now they need the support of their national authorities.* Let's hope that the 'Cities for cyclists' will have benefits from our lobby for support from national ministries of transport.

I returned yesterday from Kiev (Ukraine). It is terrible to see, what the car oriented policy does to the inner city of Kiev. But even more in the modern new parts of the city I was shocked by the un-human domination of the car. The Veloforum, a small regional international conference, well organized by ECF member Kiev Cyclists' Association, gave me some hope that the change will come from bottom up – as in general social change comes from bottom up, from the people and cities. The city authorities in Kiev should be proud of such a professional participation of citizen in policy making.

In this newsletter you will find beside information and news a question and a special request to you. Please help our common lobby and promotion by replying. Thanks in advance.

Dr. Bernhard Ensink  
ECF Secretary General



ECF Secretary General, Dr. Bernhard Ensink at the ITF on 26 May 2011.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** Editorial
- Page 2** "Cities for Cyclists" meetings in Seville
  - Question to Member Cities
  - ECF put cycling on the agenda of the ITF
  - Special Request to Member Cities
- Page 3** ECF news for "Cities for Cyclists"
  - Eurobarometer survey: Willingness to reduce emissions
  - White Paper: Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area
- Page 4** Cycling news from other cities
  - Brussels
  - Oulu
- Page 5** Velo-city Global 2012 Vancouver news
- Annex** Report from "Cities for Cyclists" meetings at Velo-city 2011 Seville

## REPORT ON MEETINGS OF "CITIES FOR CYCLISTS" IN SEVILLE



*A "Cities for Cyclists" dinner and a workshop were held at the Velo-city conference in Seville. Representatives from member cities met to discuss current priorities.*

Campaigning to make bicycling "sexy", adding and improving bicycle infrastructure, overcoming political and administrative difficulties when dealing with as many as 23 districts within one city, and the importance of focusing on complementary measures, in particular a restrictive car parking policy – these topics are common in many "Cities for Cyclists" member cities.

Read more in the attached pdf document.

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**A QUESTION TO OUR MEMBER CITIES:**

ECF President Manfred Neun would like to ask the "Cities for Cyclists" member cities' representatives about their current highest priorities. Please list your top 3 priorities and email them to [m.tulenheimo@ecf.com](mailto:m.tulenheimo@ecf.com).

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**ECF PUT CYCLING ON THE AGENDA OF THE ITF**

*ECF put cycling on the Global Transport agenda when the national transport ministers convened at the International Transport Forum (ITF) on 25-27 May 2011 in Leipzig, Germany.*

Cycling is starting to be seen as a solution to many of the pressing transport problems as high profile politicians, civil society leaders and top academics gathered in Leipzig to discuss global transport strategies in the 21st century.

Read more about the summit [here](#).

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**A SPECIAL REQUEST TO OUR MEMBER CITIES:**

In Leipzig we took the opportunity to let the press know about our Charter of Seville. In Seville the member cities of Munich, Vienna and Seville have signed the Charter as well as a number of non-member cities. We kindly ask all our network member cities to sign the Charter.

You can confirm that your city supports the charter at easiest by sending an email. Please send your confirming email to [m.tulenheimo@ecf.com](mailto:m.tulenheimo@ecf.com).

Read more about the Charter of Seville [here](#).



## ECF NEWS FOR "CITIES FOR CYCLISTS"



### WHITE PAPER: ROADMAP TO A SINGLE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT AREA

*The European Commission published in March 2011 a White Paper on Transport evaluating the evolution in the European transport system and presenting 40 specific initiatives for the next 10 years.*

The White Paper prepares a view for the European Transport Area and defines the strategy to be implemented in terms of sustainable transport systems between now and 2050. The paper underlines the importance of road safety, highlights safer infrastructure and vehicle technologies, puts emphasis on the application of the 'user-pays' principle, aims to organize the last-mile freight transport more efficiently and calls for a vision and adequate investments.

The ECF Board will discuss the White Paper on 1 July 2011. If you have comments, suggestions or any particular points that you would like to draw our attention to please send them by email before 24 June to [m.tulenheimo@ecf.com](mailto:m.tulenheimo@ecf.com).

Find the paper in your preferred language [here](#).

### EUROBAROMETER SURVEY: EU CITIZENS WILLING TO MAKE COMPROMISES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

*A recent survey conducted at the request of the European Commission shows a clear call for political leadership. EU citizens are willing to compromise on the speed, size, range and cost of cars in order to reduce emissions.*

The Eurobarometer survey "Future of transport" is an important and an encouraging indicator of what the Europeans expect in terms of transport. It illustrates a strong willingness among EU citizens to reduce emissions and to make compromises to achieve that.

Especially speed is negotiable: 68% of the 25,570 people interviewed would compromise on the speed of cars. Two-thirds could see themselves choosing a smaller vehicle and a majority supports replacing existing car charges by pay-as-you-drive policies.

7% of EU citizens named cycling as their primary daily mode of transport. A slim majority (53%) selected car, 22% public transport, 13% walking and 2% motorbike. In certain countries cycling reaches considerably higher, as in the Netherlands (31%), Hungary (19%), Denmark (19%) and Sweden (17%), according to the survey.



Find the survey [here](#).

## CYCLING NEWS FROM OTHER CITIES

### BRUSSELS: SIGNPOSTS AT THE EYE-LEVEL OF A CHILD

*An optimal height for a traffic signpost is at a level where both cyclists and pedestrians can easily see the sign.*

A simple way to facilitate the flow of cycling is to improve the use of traffic signs. Often signs are placed so high up that their message doesn't quite reach the audience. Brussels, the capital city of Belgium offers a solution to advance the communication of traffic signs. In Brussels where pedestrians and cyclists from time to time share a common space, the signs for compulsory dual tracks are located at the optimal average height for observation – the eye level of a child.



### OULU LAUNCHES AN AMBITIOUS WINTER CYCLING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

*Oulu, one of the northernmost cities in the world plans to become the Winter Cycling Capital of Europe. With a travel modal share nearly 20% cycling is already an essential part of mobility in Oulu.*

To become a more comfortable, energy efficient, environmentally friendly, healthier and a safer city Oulu has started an notable winter cycling development project. Oulu is in many respects an ideal winter cycling city partly due to a flat terrain but primarily because the city maintains well its' bicycle path network in winter. The network is the biggest per capita in Finland.

According to a Finnish study there's considerable growth potential in winter cycling everywhere: 28% of people cycling mainly during the period spring-summer-autumn would be ready to cycle in winter as well if the road maintenance level would be better. Another key issue in the Oulu project is encouraging businesses and organizations to encourage winter cycling on their own respects. The project started in March and the goal is to establish it permanently to become the Winter Cycling Capital of Europe.



Find the study [here](#).



## VELO-CITY GLOBAL 2012 VANCOUVER NEWS



The Velo-city team wants to thank the "Cities for Cyclists" network for playing an important part of a great week in Seville in March 2011. All the networks present at the Velo-city conference made it a very special and constructive week with a lot of good meetings.

The next Velo-city will be held on **26-29 June 2012** and it will be hosted by Vancouver, Canada. Again, like Copenhagen in 2010, it will be a "Global Edition" of the Velo-city conference series and the Velo-city team is very much looking forward to welcoming the CfC network again.

Read more [here](#).

### WHAT'S UP IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

#### JUNE

**1 – 2**, Brussels, Belgium: [ECF Board meeting](#), "Cities for Cyclists" as a topic.

#### JULY

**21-24**, Munich, Germany: [Bike Expo](#). A leading trade show for the cycling industry.

#### AUGUST

**Aug 31 – Sept 3**, Friedrichshafen, Germany: [Eurobike fair](#), ECF will have a booth, a press conference and a bicycle industry meeting.

#### SEPTEMBER

**16 – 22**, The European [Mobility Week](#). What's happening in your City?

#### OCTOBER

**7 – 8**, Florence, Italy: [ECF Board meeting](#).

**22 – 24**, Changwon, South Korea: [EcoMobility](#), Keynote speaker on behalf of ECF: Dr. Bernhard Ensink.



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