



Call for Papers Conference

Enabling sustainable mobility practices in Europe

University of Amsterdam, 27-28 October 2022

Transport accounts for 27% of Europe's CO₂ emissions. No surprise, thus, that sustainable mobility is a key topic on the EU's agenda: while 2021 has been marked as European Year of Rail,¹ a Commission consultation on *Sustainable transport- new urban mobility framework* has recently closed and will soon reveal its results.² Many approaches are abstractly possible - for instance, focussing on transport of goods in retail and e-commerce. In this conference, we aim to look at mobility through the eyes of the moving citizen and consumer, who travels within cities, to cities or between cities in Europe. While *reducing* mobility is sometimes a desired policy option - think of Paris' 15 minute-commute plan,³ Such an approach cannot without tensions be scaled up to a continental level, given that European integration is largely predicated on *increasing* mobility. Fostering more sustainable mobility practices is thus a key element. While much of such strategy depends on infrastructure planning and investment, the research question for this conference is what role *law* can play in this process, in particular when one aims to promote the adoption of more sustainable mobility among citizens in their various life areas - from shopping to (weekend) travelling. The specific angle would be to look at legal incentives which are not directly translated into monetary incentives - leaving out, for instance, parking fees or higher taxation on flight tickets. First, what are possible barriers that prevent consumers and citizens from easily engaging in more sustainable mobility practices? Take the different passenger rights regimes that are currently in place for rail passengers and air passengers, where travelling by plane affords travellers more rights than travelling by train would. Second, what sets of rules could facilitate the promotion and adoption of these practices? Such rules may for instance range from requiring better information on sustainable

¹ https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/index_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12916-Sustainable-transport-new-urban-mobility-framework/public-consultation_en

³ <https://tomorrow.city/a/paris-the-15-minute-city>

mobility options in the EU to prohibiting advertising of the less sustainable variants like Amsterdam has started doing.⁴

We aim to analyse this complex problem at three different levels:

- **Sustainable urban mobility** - how we traverse the city
- **Sustainable regional mobility** - how we stay connected
- **Sustainable international mobility** - how we cross borders

In order to do so, the conference will bring together experts from law and social sciences, including sociology and planning studies. Emphasis is placed on mobility as a social phenomenon and a social practice, even when policies aim to address the behaviour of individuals.

The conference will feature a number of keynote speakers representing the different dimensions we want to highlight. Confirmed interventions/activities include presentations by **Carey Curtis**, Professor in City Planning & Transport at the University of Melbourne and **Guido Smorto**, Professor of Comparative law at the University of Palermo, Italy, as well as an interactive panel on mobility rights facilitate by **Marco te Brömmelstroet, Anna Nikolaeva and Luca Bertolini**, University of Amsterdam Centre for Urban Studies. A number of questions - What are mobility rights? What other rights could they be combined or come in conflict with? How could these rights be negotiated? How could they be guaranteed? will be discussed, with an empirical focus on the urban street.

Academics and other stakeholders with insights on sustainable mobility are invited to join the conference. We particularly welcome papers engaging with the following questions:

- What are possible underexplored barriers that prevent consumers and citizens from easily engaging in more sustainable mobility practices?
- What sets of rules could facilitate the promotion and adoption of these practices with respect to consumers and citizens in contemporary Europe?
- What are the differences and similarities between the challenges of governing the transition towards sustainable mobility on the local, regional and international scale?

Anyone interested in these questions is warmly invited to send us an abstract of a paper they would like to present at the conference. Abstracts should be no longer than **500 words** and the deadline for submissions is **1 May 2022**. Submissions should be sent to

⁴ <https://www.parool.nl/amsterdam/geen-reclame-voor-fossiele-brandstofgebruikers-meer-in-metrostations-ba859987/>

y.c.vandenberg@uva.nl. Selected speakers are expected to submit at least a detailed outline no later than 13 October 2022 to allow fellow panelists and attendees to properly prepare.

A special issue in a suitable journal (eg Journal of Consumer Policy, Transport Policy, Mobilities) would be a welcome outcome of the event - we are actively looking into this and welcome suggestions and initial expressions of interest.

For the selected speakers we will be able to reimburse (economy) travel costs. The organization will also book you two hotel nights at a hotel closeby the faculty. If possible and reasonable, we encourage you to reach Amsterdam by train. ACES is able to reimburse first class train tickets when traveling second class would have considerable disadvantages (and conditional on timely booking to keep the price difference limited). Lunch and a speakers' dinner will be taken care of on the first day of the event.

Because of the path-breaking character of this conference we hope to encourage different and refreshing perspectives on the role of law in sustainable mobility transitions. The selection of papers will reflect such an open and unrestricted approach, so please feel encouraged to submit work that may be at a varying level of development.

Organizers

[Yannick van den Berg](#) and [Candida Leone](#) - Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law, University of Amsterdam Law School