

**Declassified<sup>1</sup>**

AS/Soc/NCP (2024) PV05add

29 January 2025

Asocncppv05add\_2024

## **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

### **Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment**

#### ***Minutes***

#### **of the exchange of views on “Portuguese approaches on sustainable energy for mobility and housing from a general perspective to concrete measures”**

**held in Lisbon on Thursday, 12 September 2024**

Under the chairmanship of **Ms Edite Estrela** (Portugal, SOC), **Chairperson** of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a Healthy Environment, members **held** an exchange of views with:

- **Mr Jorge Delgado**, former Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Secretary of State for Mobility, on main national challenges in terms of sustainable mobility and the Portuguese policies to address them;
- **Mr Nelson Lage**, President of ADENE (National Energy Agency), on ADENE action for the energy transition;
- **Mr Miguel Gaspar**, former Councillor on the Lisbon City Council, on Sustainable development challenges facing cities, the example of Lisbon;
- **Ms Maria Manuela Alvares**, Councillor of Matosinhos on Strategy to decarbonize Matosinhos by 2030 in terms of housing and the concrete actions taken;
- **Mr João Crispim**, Fundação Mestre Casais (Engineer), on concrete measures for sustainable mobility and housing
- **Mr Vladimiro Feliz**, Engineer, Director of Ceiiia's Collaborative Laboratory, on new technologies, products and services to accelerate cities' transition towards carbon neutrality.

The lessons learned from these hearings will feed into **Ms Kluit**'s report on sustainable and socially just energy transition, as well as into **Ms Floridia**'s report on housing.

**Mr Delgado** highlighted the main challenges facing Portugal in terms of sustainable mobility. His speech covered the environmental, social and economic issues associated with mobility, while emphasising the policies put in place to meet these challenges. It was important to reduce road traffic congestion, which wasted an estimated 1% of GDP every year. This situation was exacerbated by the excessive occupation of urban space by vehicles, a trend that hindered the development of more sustainable alternatives. Portugal had fallen behind in the overall management of mobility, with solutions having so far been ad hoc and disconnected from socio-economic issues. The country had built up a vast road network but had not invested sufficiently in alternatives to individual vehicles, such as public transport or soft mobility. The challenge was to have a global vision of mobility in Portugal.

Teleworking was part of a strategy to reduce travel, but the core of the strategy was to attract users to public transport. To make this transition a success, a public transport network should be accessible, comfortable, easy to use and carbon-free. Efforts had been made in this direction, with investment in improvements to the metro in Lisbon and the introduction of high service level buses in medium-sized towns. However, in less densely populated areas, private vehicles still predominated. The government was therefore working with local communities to identify their specific needs and support appropriate initiatives. The speaker outlined the measures introduced in 2019 to encourage the use of public transport, such as fare reductions and the creation of multi-trip tickets. One of the flagship measures of this policy was the introduction of free public transport for young people under the age of 18 and students. The aim was to increase the financial capital of public transport companies from 134 million euros in 2019 to 410 million euros in 2024.

<sup>1</sup> The minutes were approved and declassified by the Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment at its meeting on 29 January 2025.

Sustainable mobility was not limited to public transport. It was also crucial to promote active modes of transport, such as walking and cycling, as part of a sustainable and intelligent mobility approach. Diversifying means of transport and encouraging people to adopt more environment-friendly practices was essential for a successful transition to more sustainable mobility.

**Mr Lage**, speaking on behalf of the National Energy Agency, explained that the national commitment to contributing to the global community's target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C was seen as an opportunity to modernise various sectors of national economy while also cutting energy poverty, creating 'green' jobs and boosting competitiveness. Tapping this opportunity was a collective responsibility which required sound planning, citizen involvement and ambitious public policies. Thus, the national energy plan sought to orient investment into green technologies and fuels towards 55% reduction of emission over 2030-2050. Citizens would be involved through action on enhanced energy efficiency of households, upskilling for a greater uptake of green jobs and policy dialogue.

For the new partnerships for development to work at national level, new training centres were being set up across the country and policy dialogue was pursued by the national government and local authorities with citizens and businesses. The greening measures so far have enabled Portugal to cut natural gas consumption by 22% over 2022-2024 period compared to 15% requirement by the European Union. Thanks to innovative approaches, Portugal had one of the most robust energy transition systems in Europe. Public policies further pursued ambitious efforts in the field of sustainable construction, housing and transport, as well as storage facilities for energy produced from renewable energy sources. More sustainable energy system meant more resilient society.

**Mr Gaspar** presented the overall vision for mobility management in the Lisbon metropolitan region. He emphasised the crucial contribution of cities to the global sustainability agenda, recalling that over 50% of the world's population lived in urban areas and that the majority of economic activity took place in cities. Cities needed to reduce their emissions by 50% by 2030 to meet sustainability targets, putting them at the centre of global efforts to combat climate change. As far as Europe was concerned, by 2030, there were plans to have at least 30 million zero-emission vehicles on the road, including 80 000 lorries, with a broader ambition of making all new vehicles (cars, buses, heavy goods vehicles) zero-emissions by 2050. In addition, all scheduled collective journeys of less than 500 km within the European Union would have to be carbon neutral by 2030. By the same deadline 100 climate-neutral cities would emerge and integrated electronic ticketing to facilitate multimodal travel would emerge, aiming to make public transport more accessible, fluid and emissions-free.

At the level of the Lisbon metropolitan region, the 2017-2021 municipal mandate was marked by a sense of urgency in the face of the need to act. The 2015 Paris Agreements and the National Climate Plan aimed for a 26% reduction in transport emissions by 2050. The urgent call from the United Nations in 2018, through Antonio Guterres, reinforced this urgency, underlining that the world was changing rapidly and that time was running out for decisive action.

Lisbon faced special challenges related to its demography. During the day, the capital's working population tripled due to the daily commuting of workers. The problems of mobility in Lisbon could not be resolved without addressing the issue of metropolitan travel. The citizens of the metropolitan region, whether young people, workers, tourists or parents, had expressed clear needs in terms of mobility: better traffic conditions, more parking, regular and punctual public transport, as well as an integrated network in terms of timetables, fares and ticketing with digital payments. A modal split analysis revealed that Lisbon was still lagging behind other major cities: Stockholm and Boston had a 45% public transport use rate, while Lisbon only reached 26%, well below Paris or London.

One of the major advances was the holding of the first Lisbon and Porto Metropolitan Areas Summit in March 2018. At this event, the mayors affirmed that the municipalities were ready to assume greater responsibility for mobility and housing. Three priorities had emerged: a significant reduction in public transport fares with a new monthly pass for metropolitan areas, the transfer of powers from national and municipal transport authorities to metropolitan authorities, and a significant increase in public investment in structural transport lines (metro, rail and inter-municipal buses). Concrete action had followed, notably with the introduction of new fares in 2019. This had resulted in a price reduction of up to 75% and a 40% increase in the number of monthly passes. Passenger numbers increased by 18% to 2 million per day. At the same time, the creation of a public company in 2020 to act as the metropolitan transport authority had made it possible to bring together the ticketing and planning systems, centralising the management of public transport.

Lastly, these reforms had been accompanied by the biggest-ever investment in public transport in the region. The Carris Metropolitana company had been created, with 800 lines, 160 new buses and a contract worth 1 billion euros for its operation. The government had also allocated €2 billion to finance new metro lines, increase rail capacity, and develop infrastructure such as light rail and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. The aim of this vast investment programme was to strengthen the region's cohesion, competitiveness and sustainability. In conclusion, there was a need for integrated management and collective action to improve mobility in the Lisbon metropolitan region, as well as strong political coordination and structural investment to meet the expectations of citizens and climate imperatives.

**Ms Alvares** as Councillor of Matosinhos, a mid-size city of Portugal, presented local authorities' development action plan for climate action and reducing environmental footprint of the city and its inhabitants. An initial study had shown much potential for increasing resilience and citizen involvement with a focus on sustainable housing, energy and the prevention of natural disasters. Efforts were being scaled up to improve insulation, modernise heating system, carry out energy efficiency mapping for the housing sector and reduce waste. This had already led to reduced emissions at local level, better use of local resources and increased comfort for local inhabitants.

**Mr Crispim** as engineer outlined technical solutions for curbing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector. According to the Clean Bus Portugal study, the average age of buses across the country was 30 years: it was a high time to modernize the fleet. Moreover, adapted technical solutions were necessary to implement a holistic approach to construction and energy development sectors.

**Mr Feliz** described the collaboration between the developers of new technologies and the transport sector enterprises (such as car manufacturers, aircraft and helicopter makers, space technology and transport service providers) towards reducing the environmental footprint of the Portuguese economy.

**Ms Kluit** asked about the affordability of new technologies to enable access by all and ensure public adherence to green transition action.

**Mr Fridez** wondered about prospects for solidarity between the developed and developing countries, which was desperately needed to engage all countries in more sustainable development models.

**Mr Amraoui** pointed out to the challenge of short- to medium-term costs versus long-term benefits in the area of green transition.

**Mr Moutquin** deplored a mismatch between the urgency to act to counter climate change and the slowness of political action, including for budgetary reasons. He wondered whether mass tourism could be compatible with sustainable development.

**Ms Tanguy** spoke of the historical responsibility of developed countries to reduce their environmental footprint and to help developing countries to do the same. Technology transfer could provide part of the answer. A meaningful and effective green transition was only possible through a balanced contribution by both public and private sector actors.

**Mr Lage** in turn highlighted the need for a global commitment to green transition at all levels of government, which would help mobilise resources and investment, including at the international level. The existence of poverty pockets in Portugal, Europe and the world at large had to be factored in through national budgets. Efforts to increase energy literacy of the population would help to use creative forces and reduce wasteful use of energy.

**Mr Feliz** pointed out to digital solutions that could orient users into more sustainable consumption patterns.

**Mr Gaspar** stressed the importance of keeping the Paris Agreement as benchmark in sight for both public and private sectors to work together. It was also important to learn from mistakes in the past in the light of budgetary austerity and to leave no one behind.

**Mr Delgado** considered that the current economic development model was not sustainable and that a shift was therefore necessary towards for responsible development model(s).

**The Chairperson** warmly thanked all the participants for their contributions to the discussion. She appreciated a valuable input this discussion could bring to the committee's work on various reports and hopefully inspire members' action at national level.

## List of presence / Liste de presence

(The names of members who took part in the meetings are in bold / Les noms des membres ayant pris part aux réunions sont en caractères gras)

**Chairperson / Présidente : Ms Edite Estrela**, Portugal, SOC  
**Vice- Chairperson / Vice-Président : Mr Rik Daems**, Belgium / *Belgique*, ALDE

### Member States / États Membres

Albania / <i>Albanie</i>			
Andorra / <i>Andorre</i>			
Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>	Mr/M.	Armen Gevorgyan	EC/DA
Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	Mr/M.	<b>Stefan Schennach</b>	SOC
	Ms/Mme	Agnes Sirkka Prammer	SOC
Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mr/M.	Rik Daems	ALDE
Bosnia and Herzegovina / <i>Bosnie-Herzégovine</i>	Mr/M.	Saša Magazinović	SOC
Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>			
Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>	Ms/Mme	Zdravka Bušić	EPP/CD
Cyprus / <i>Chypre</i>			
Czechia / <i>Tchèque</i>			
Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>			
Estonia / <i>Estonie</i>			
Finland / <i>Finlande</i>	Ms/Mme	<b>Minna Reijonen</b>	EC/DA
France	Ms/Mme	<b>Liliana Tanguy</b>	ALDE
Georgia / <i>Géorgie</i>	Ms/Mme	Eka Sepashvili	EC/DA
Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms/Mme	Franziska Kersten	SOC
Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	Mr/M.	George Papandreou	SOC
Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>			
Iceland / <i>Islande</i>	Mr/M.	Bjarni Jónsson	UEL
Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>	Mr/M.	Thomas Pringle	UEL
	Ms/Mme	Róisín Garvey	SOC
Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Mr/M.	Stefano Maullu	EC/DA
	Ms/Mme	<b>Aurora Floridia</b>	SOC
Latvia / <i>Lettonie</i>			
Liechtenstein	Mr/M.	Peter Frick	ALDE
Lithuania / <i>Lituanie</i>	Mr/M.	Arminas Lydeka	ALDE
Luxembourg	Mr/M.	Paul Galles	EPP/CD
Malta / <i>Malte</i>			
Republic of Moldova / <i>République de Moldova</i>			
Monaco			
Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>	Mr/M.	<b>Miloš Konatar</b>	SOC
Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	Ms/Mme	<b>Saskia Kluit</b>	SOC
	Ms /Mme	Carla Moonen	ALDE

North Macedonia / <i>Macédoine du Nord</i>			
Norway / <i>Norvège</i>	Ms/Mme	Linda Hofstad Helleland	EPP/CD
Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	Ms/Mme	Danuta Jazłowiecka	EPP/CD
Portugal			
Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms/Mme	Maria Gabriela Horga	EPP/CD
	Ms/Mme	Alina Stefania Gorghiu	EPP/CD
San Marino / <i>Saint-Marin</i>			
Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>			
Slovak Republic / <i>République slovaque</i>			
Slovenia / <i>Slovénie</i>	Mr/M.	Dean Premik	ALDE
Spain / <i>Espagne</i>			
Sweden / <i>Suède</i>			
Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>			
Türkiye	Mr/M.	Sevan Sivacioğlu	NR
Ukraine	Ms/Mme	Yuliia Ovchynnykova	ALDE
United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>			

**Observers / Observateurs**

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Israel / <i>Israël</i>		
Mexico / <i>Mexique</i>		

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Kyrgyzstan / <i>Kirghizstan</i>		
Morocco / <i>Maroc</i>	Mr/M.	<b>Allal Amraoui</b>
Palestine		

**President of the Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée**

<b>Ex-Officio Member / Membre d'office</b>	Mr/M.	Theodoros Rousopoulos	EPP/DC
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**Former President of the Assembly / Ancien Président de l'Assemblée**

<b>Ex-Officio Member / Membre d'office</b>	Mr/M.	Tiny Cox	UEL
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**Presidents of Political Groups / Présidents des groupes politiques**

<b>Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office</b>	Mr/M.	Frank Schwabe	SOC
	Mr/M.	Pablo Hispán	EPP/CD
	Mr/M.	Ian Liddell-Grainger	EC/DA
	Mr/M.	Iulian Bulai	ALDE
	Mr/M.	Andrej Hunko	UEL

**Members appointed by PACE committees concerned / Membres désignés par les commissions de l'APCE concernées**

Political Affairs / Affaires politiques	Mr/M.	Simon Moutquin	SOC
Legal Affairs / Questions juridiques			
Migration / Migrations	Mr/M.	Pierre-Alain Fridez	
Equality / Égalité	Ms/Mme	Edite Estrela	SOC
Culture			

**Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs /  
Bureau de la Commission des Questions Sociales  
Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office**

Chairperson / Président	Mr/M.	Simon Moutquin	SOC
First Vice-Chairperson / Première Vice-Présidente	Ms/Mme	Danuta Jazłowiecka	EPP/CD
Second Vice-Chairperson / Deuxième Vice-Président	Mr/M.	Armen Gevorgyan	EC/DA
Third Vice-Chairperson / Troisième Vice-Président			

**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities /  
Congrès des Pouvoirs Locaux et Régionaux**

Thematic Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change/ Porte-Parole thématique sur l'environnement et le changement climatique	...	...	
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**Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie /  
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie**

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**Inter-Parliamentary Union / Union Interparlementaire**

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**European Parliament / Parlement Européen**

	Ms/Mme	Marie-Pierre Vedrenne (France, Renew Europe)
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**Other parliamentarians present / Autres parlementaires présents**

**Mr / M. Frank Essl**, Austria / Autriche  
**Ms / Mme Jamila Madeira**, Portugal  
**Mr / M. Paul Moniz**, Portugal  
**Ms / Mme Regina Bastos**, former MEP, Portugal  
**Ms / Mme Diana Stoica**, Romania / Roumanie  
**Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin Niculescu-Tâgârlaş**, Romania / Roumanie  
**Ms / Mme Jelena Milošević**, Serbia / Serbie  
**Ms / Mme Maria Fernández**, Spain / Espagne  
**Ms / Mme Carmen Leyte**, Spain / Espagne  
**Ms / Mme Luz Martinez Seijo**, Spain / Espagne  
**Mr / M. Sevan Sivacioğlu**, Türkiye  
**Mr / M. Andrii Lopushanskyi**, Ukraine  
**Ms / Mme Lesia Zaburanna**, Ukraine

**Other persons present / Autres personnes personnes présentes**

**Mr / M. Mario Zibeiro**, European Parliament / *Parlement européen*

**Experts / Expert e s**

**Mr / M. Jorge Delgado**, former Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Secretary of State for Mobility / ancien Secrétaire d'État aux infrastructures et secrétaire d'État à la mobilité

**Mr / M. Nelson Lage**, President of ADENE (National Energy Agency) / *Président de l'ADENE (Agence nationale de l'énergie)*

**Mr / M. Miguel Gaspar**, former Councillor on the Lisbon City Council / *ancien Conseiller municipal de Lisbonne*

**Ms / Mme Maria Maduela Alvares**, representing the city of Matosinhos / *représentant la ville de Matosinhos*

**Mr / M. João Crispim**, Fundação Mestre Casais (Engineer) / *Fondation Mestre Casais (Ingénieur)*

**Mr / M. Vladimiro Feliz**, Engineer, Director of Ceia's Collaborative Laboratory / *Ingénieur, Directeur du laboratoire collaboratif de Ceia*

**Secretariat of Delegation or of Political Group / Secrétariat de délégation ou de Groupe politique**

**Ms / Mme Vera Damjanović**, Montenegro

**Mr / M. Razvan Tanase**, Romania / Roumanie

**Mr / M. Kenan Arpacioğlu**, Türkiye

**Mr / M. Sabih Gazi Öztürk**, Türkiye

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire**

**Ms / Mme Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis**, Secretary General of PACE / Secrétaire générale de l'APCE

**Ms / Mme Louise Barton** .....Director of Committees / *Directrice des commissions*

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development /  
*Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable*

**Ms / Mme Catherine Du-Bernard Rochy** ..... Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*

**Ms / Mme Aiste Ramanauskaite** ..... Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

**Ms / Mme Jannick Devaux** ..... Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

**Ms / Mme Claire Dubois-Hamdi** ..... Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

**Ms / Mme Xenia Birioukova** .....Assistant/ Assistante

**Ms / Mme Özgü Tan** .....Assistant/ Assistante