Report of the National Cycling Officers Network Meeting and the first meeting of THE PEP Partnership on Promotion of Cycling

Date: 17 April, 9 am – 4 pm

Venue:
French Transport Ministry, La Défense, Paris

Agenda:
Welcome by Dominique Lebrun (French national inter-ministerial cycling coordinator), Robert Thaler (Vice-Chair of THE PEP - Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) and Bernhard Ensink (ECF Secretary General)


Session 1: National cycling strategies: Status quo, opportunities and challenges
- ECF: Present general overview of existing national cycling strategies in Europe: Which countries do have a strategy, what are the objectives, main tools, etc?
- National cycling officers (Tour de table/ presentations – max. 5 slides): What are the main opportunities of having a national cycling strategy? And what are the main challenges in implementing national cycling policies currently? What do you expect from the new THE PEP partnership on cycling promotion?

Session 2: THE PEP Partnership on the Promotion of Cycling
The next High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment in Paris will "Decide to initiate the development of a pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, supported by guidelines and tools to assist in the development of cycling promotion policies at the national level. This new initiative will be undertaken within the framework of THE PEP partnerships."

- Framing the discussion: ECF will present current EU policy agenda related to cycling (ECF manifesto on European Parliament elections 2014)
• Discussion: What should the pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion be about? How to arrive there? Development of a road book.
• Discussion: What guidelines and tools will be needed to assist in the development of cycling promotion policies at the national level?

Minutes

Welcome
Dominique Lebrun (French national inter-ministerial cycling coordinator) welcomes the partners and thanks Austria for the initiative of proposing the new THE PEP Partnership on cycling promotion. After his welcoming words he presented the new „Active Mobility Action Plan“ which has been published on 5th of March 2014.

Robert Thaler (Vice-Chair of THE PEP - Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) is welcoming the partners. He informed participants that the ministers of the PEP countries agreed that cycling should be one of the main topics to deal with in the next years. This will be the basis for our collaboration in the partnership. Mr. Thaler thanks the French partners to organize the first meeting. The pan-European Masterplan for Cycling should be ready for the 5th THE PEP High Level Meeting which will take place in Vienna in 2019.

Christian Schweizer (WHO/Europe) represented THE PEP secretariat. The partnership is under the umbrella of THE PEP and the secretariat will support it. THE PEP partnerships are means to facilitate cooperation between the member states. Focus of the partnership should be on the production of concrete outputs. He mentions to integrate the outputs of existing initiatives like “HEAT” and “Generation of jobs in green economy through green and healthy transport”.

Bernhard Ensink (ECF Secretary General) stresses the importance of cycling on the national level. With the partnership the topic will be raised to the pan-European level.

Introduction
National Cycling Officers Network Meeting & THE PEP Partnership on Promotion of Cycling (Martin Eder, Austrian National Cycling Coordinator) presents the objectives, scope of action for the new PEP partnership.

Session 1: National cycling strategies: Status quo, opportunities and challenges (chaired by Bernhard Ensink ECF)

ECF (Fabian Küster): Present general overview of existing national cycling strategies in Europe: Which countries do have a strategy, what are the objectives, main tools, etc?

➤ see presentation

National cycling officers (Tour de table/presentations – max. 5 slides): What are the main opportunities of having a national cycling strategy? And what are the main challenges in implementing national cycling policies currently? What do you expect from the new THE PEP partnership on cycling promotion?
Serbia (Djordje Mircic): National Cycling Federation of Serbia will support the ministry. Currently there is no nat. strategy – there are local bodies that have some people dedicated to cycling within the department of transportation. People need guidelines in order to focus their efforts and money. It is seen as a very encouraging sign that the ministry decided to participate and to nominate representatives to participate in this meeting.

Germany (Birgitta Worringen) ➔ see presentation

Luxembourg (Christophe Reuter) ➔ see presentation

Czech Republic (Jiri Bendl): supported the elaboration of Paragraph for Agenda 21 ➔ consensus of all nations. Czech Republic is investing 1-2 euros per capita – 50% from government, 50% from regions (supported by EU).

Sweden (Lars Darin): ➔ see presentation

Denmark (Mia Stampe Lagergaard): ➔ see presentation

Austria (Martin Eder): 2011 mid-term evaluation, horizon 2015 – curious if Austria will achieve the goals? 2011 the modal share of cycling was 7%. Nationwide survey going on – results will be ready 2015. Local/regional surveys show decrease of bicycle share (e.g. Graz). Main challenges: cycling in pedestrian zones, changes of road code for not compulsory usage of bicycle lanes, etc. Focus on bicycle streets as new instrument for communities for cycling promotion. Expectations PEP: pan-European masterplan will provide support cycling on national level – provide arguments for national level – European level: financing instruments, signing/signaling (Vienna convention), climate change targets, HEAT methodology


Slovakia (Peter Klučka): ➔ see presentation

Belgium (Peter Andries): ➔ see presentation

Question by Denmark: availability of cycling master plan in English language? No – therefore could be one of the actions in the partnership!

**Session 2: THE PEP Partnership on the Promotion of Cycling (chaired by Martin Eder, Austrian National Cycling Officer)**

Framing the discussion: ECF will present current EU policy agenda related to cycling (ECF manifesto on European Parliament elections 2014) – presentation of ECF manifesto

Feedback from the partners:

- **Question from Mia Stampe Lagergaard (Denmark):** why money for cycling just has to come from transport sector? Why not from health sector? Health ministries/sectors should be more involved – but problem with existing focus of health sector – focus on prevention is still weak – mainly on health care, etc.
- **Statement Robert Thaler (Austria):**
  - good presentation – highlighting topics to be dealt with on the European level
5th goal of THE PEP: better coordination of land use, transport planning – also very important for cycling because cyclists need safe and easy access to your daily needs (homes, workplace, etc.)

- Denmark: horizon of manifesto 2030 – things will change in the next 15 years – might be valuable to have different scenarios e.g. for modal split
- Martin Eder (Austria): clear quantitative target was good for communication with politics – with scenarios you have the danger that politics always focus on the lowest possible scenario
- Jiri Bendl (Czech Republic): add 1-3% of budget of transport should be focused to cycling / integrate the topic of cycling in different topics (road infrastructure construction, river flood-saving measures should allow the installation of cycling routes on top of the dams)
- Denmark: huge investments in climate adaption infrastructures – good moment to use this window of opportunity to integrate cycling in different areas

Areas of Interest:

Partners declared their interest in the different activities with which the partnership will deal with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>AT</th>
<th>BE</th>
<th>CZ</th>
<th>FR</th>
<th>SR</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>LUX</th>
<th>SK</th>
<th>DE</th>
<th>ECF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan-European Master Plan</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines and tools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing good practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish/Extend Network of National Cycling Officers</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In an intensive discussion the partners tried to define the scope of the partnership and the relevant activities more clearly.

Description of partnership and its objectives

Starting from the decision of ministers to promote cycling and to develop a pan-European masterplan for cycling, the new partnership has to set actions in order to achieve this objective:

1. First of all the existing partnership has to be strengthened and extended. This will provide the organizational and professional background for all activities
2. Secondly the topics to be dealt with on the pan-European level have to be identified. This will be the basis for the development of the pan European masterplan
3. Furthermore it is necessary to continue with sharing good practices within the network of cycling officers
4. By sharing good practices and developing guidelines and tools the partnership defines how to put the necessary actions resulting from the pan-European masterplan into practice
The Pan-European masterplan will provide the national cycling officers with additional back up from the political level to bring forward the topic of cycling in their countries and regions.

**Definition of next steps:**

1. Strengthen and extend the existing partnership
    a. Members of the partnership will nominate 2 delegates
    b. Members will sign a letter of intent which will underline the interest of the member state in participation in the partnership
    c. With the support of the THE PEP secretariat the partnership initiators will try to involve as many member countries as possible in the partnership

2. Needs assessment and definition of framework for pan-European masterplan
    a. Start drafting the framework document in June (after Velocity) – Austria & ECF
    b. Send first draft to defined working group (July)
    c. Continuous improvement of the document (July, August)
    d. Send document to the other partnership partners (September)

Mr. Thaler asks the partners to take into account the THE PEP timeplan. As Steering Committee meetings always take place in autumn (most likely November) the partnership should come up with first results or at least with a status of work some weeks before the THE PEP SC Meetings. Therefore the next meeting of the partnership should be in October.

**Next meetings**

- 2nd meeting of THE PEP Partnership on the promotion of cycling, Praha, Oct/Nov 2014
- 3rd meeting along with the Velomesse in Berlin (Feb/March 2015)
- 4th meeting & midterm review of THE PEP Partnership on the promotion of cycling along with the Velocity 2015, Nantes, June 2nd/5th, 2015
- Presentation of pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, January 2017