



Learning from mobility policies in Dutch and Belgian/Flemish Front-runner Cities

For cities that want to improve air quality, mobility policies offer great possibilities. In this session, different mobility policies were presented.

In a panel discussion, four speakers shared their knowledge:

1. Laura Tavernier, a mobility expert at Rebel, specialising in urban logistics and freight transport who has worked for several Flemish cities including Bruges and Antwerp,
2. Sarah Hollander, Head of the Sustainable Mobility Department at Brussels Environment, who works on a broad array of measures in Brussels from low-emission zones to behavioural change.
3. Muriël van Oers, a policy advisor on air quality, citizen science and communication at Rijkswaterstaat, who works for the Clean Air Agreement that aims to improve air quality in the Netherlands through collaboration between local, regional, and national governments, experts and citizens.
4. Josette Vallentgoed-Udo represented the City of Amsterdam that has ambitious plans for zero-emission transport to improve the quality of life in Amsterdam. Unfortunately she had to leave early due to a medical emergency and could not join the discussion, but her slides are included in the presentation.

The panel discussion started with a topic introduced by Sarah, who explained the difficulties encountered in Brussels when the local government changed following a very lengthy process of forming a new local administration. The uncertainty stalled the progress of the implementation of a number of plans. All panellist recognized these challenges, not only at the local level but also at the national level.

Another topic, that was extensively discussed, was how to gain the support of stakeholders affected by new mobility policies. The importance of face-to-face meetings, listening to feedback, and providing practical support was stressed. For example, Laura mentioned that the building sector required specific adaptations to the policy plans. Sarah explained how, in Brussels, test drives in electrical cars had been organised and proved to be very popular.

Another interesting topic was collaboration between cities. Muriël explained how this is organized in the Netherlands through the Clean Air Agreement. Participants from the CityTRAQ cities in the audience shared how they had inspired one another in the area of mobility policies.

All in all, it was a very lively and interesting discussion in which participants not only learned a great deal from one another, but also realised that they shared many similar experiences.

