

Joint Statement

IndustriAll Europe – European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF) principles and demands for ‘BUILDING A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS A SMART AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY’

We want a Just Transition for workers in Europe’s mobility industries in which we are not just informed by political and corporate decision-makers of the changes afoot, but in which we co-design the mobility industries and services of the future in an equitable manner. This joint position sets out the common analysis and Just Transition demands of transport and manufacturing workers.

The importance of our mobility ecosystem

Transport, the mobility of people and mobility of goods, is one of the essential services that make our society and our economy run. These services rely on strategic manufacturing industries in Europe.

Mobility of people must be inclusive, accessible and affordable; it is the guarantee for participation in social and economic life; mobility of goods must be accessible and reliable. The climate emergency, as well as the health problems due to air and noise pollution, mean that a shift to sustainable mobility is inevitable and necessary.

Alongside quality bikes, vehicles, planes, vessels and trains, mobility needs reliable, quality infrastructure which includes:

- The physical infrastructure for efficient and sustainable mobility, including ‘soft mobility’ (cycling and walking infrastructure)
- The feed/fuel infrastructure, noting the needs of new sustainable fuels
- The logistical infrastructure to make the overall mobility sector efficient and safe
- The devices used for the various modes of transport (high-quality, sustainable and long-lasting)

But first of all, sustainable mobility needs workers: those who are developing, building, operating, and repairing the means to move people and goods. Altogether, the vehicles, vessels, trains, and planes, the infrastructure and the people building and moving them are part of our mobility ecosystem.

The nature of our mobility ecosystem is highly political, being an essential service that requires high levels of investment. European competition and state aid rules often hinder rather than help our long-term interests of open strategic autonomy and social and territorial cohesion in these industries. It also hinders the delivery of sustainable, quality passenger freight services. Choices in investment, including in vehicles, infrastructure, mobility mix, fuel technology, taxation and people, are long-term choices that require social and civic dialogue.

The 20 million workers in the mobility sector and their representatives have a right to be heard!

The ecological and the digital transformation: challenges and opportunities for workers in the mobility ecosystem

We, industriAll Europe and the European Transport Workers' Federation, recognise the need for the decarbonisation of the mobility sector and creating a more environmentally friendly mobility ecosystem. We support the aims of the European Green Deal and insist that the transformation of our industries is fair and just. No worker, industry, or region should be left behind in the move to a more sustainable mobility ecosystem.

We are convinced that the transformation to a sustainable and fair mobility ecosystem needs both a European transport policy, promoting a sustainable mobility revolution, as well as an ambitious European industrial policy, which invests in infrastructure and workers, noting various energy, trade, and geopolitical challenges.

Our joint JT4Mobility project made a first assessment of the challenges and opportunities of the twin green and digital transition regarding employment, working conditions and skills, and we identified both commonalities and differences in the different transport sectors.

Key findings:

- There is **no proper social impact assessment nor systematic social dialogue** on the policy decisions linked to the twin transition that allows for proper anticipation and negotiation of measures for the workers concerned.
- There are a **number of uncertainties regarding the technological choices** that affect companies and workers alike.
- The existing **Just Transition instruments** are not applicable for all our industries.
- The **shortage of workers and skills** are affecting both transport and manufacturing with severe economic consequences in some sectors.
- That both transport and manufacturing are suffering from **social dumping practices**, stimulated by liberalisation policies in the transport and that **sub-contracting and offshoring** are rife in the manufacturing sector.
- That our industries operate in global markets, and **unfair trading rules** and global inaction on climate change demands an assertive response in Europe if we are to avoid losing strategic industries and transport services through new forms of carbon leakage.
- In many cases, **corporate strategies focused on maximising profits** have undermined the investment in infrastructure, equipment and the quality of jobs needed to meet mobility needs.

Transport manufacturing and transport workers stand together

For the protection of our climate and environment, to provide inclusive mobility and to ensure sustainable transport supply chains, transport and manufacturing workers recognise their common interests and agree to work together towards a more sustainable European mobility ecosystem.

We are convinced that we need a truly holistic approach to these challenges, linking transport and industrial policy together while engaging with workers and EU citizens. It is clear that we need to think and act cross-sectorally, while deepening our sectoral knowledge and understanding.

The upcoming European Parliament elections in 2024 and the future European Commission's Work Programme, that will very likely be based on a still to be defined 2040 decarbonisation goal, will be our reference points.

IndustriAll Europe and the ETF commit to:

- Jointly lobby the European institutions to ensure a comprehensive investment plan for a Just Transition in the mobility sector
- Further develop our cooperation at sectoral level
- Encourage our affiliates to increase their cooperation at national level

A first set of common industriAll Europe – ETF demands

We demand that the European Commission:

- Recognise the strategic importance of our industries and services to the goal of decarbonisation, the strategic autonomy and social and regional cohesion of Europe.
- Recognise the strategic importance of transport and mobility as an essential service for society and economy.
- Develop a proactive industrial strategy for the mobility ecosystem, in conjunction with the social partners, ensuring that the forthcoming Transition Pathway has real-world impact and that European state aid rules support the transformation of our industries.
- Takes an assertive response in Europe and fierce engagement in international organisations to avoid losing strategic industries and transport services through new forms of carbon leakage.
- Establish a real dialogue with the social partners in preparation of the 2040 decarbonisation goal.
- Include a Just Transition framework and adequate funding for the mobility ecosystem in their next Work Programme.
- Ensure that Just Transition is at the centre of the forthcoming 'Pathway towards a smart and sustainable mobility ecosystem' and monitor the implementation process with the involvement of social partners.
- Monitor Member States' national programmes and insist on Just Transition measures as well as social conditionalities in state aid rules and when applying for EU funding.
- Create a European Just Transition Observatory to monitor the implementation of all policies and measures related to the full scope of the European Green Deal.
- Urgently take on board our long-standing concerns and demands to improve the rights and prerogatives of European Works Councils through the revision of the EWC Directive, without further delay.
- Come forward with an EU legal framework for the anticipation and management of Just Transition at company level, inspired by the 2013 Cercas report, including mandatory rules on timely and quality information, consultation and participation of trade unions and worker representatives at local, national and European levels, as well as social guarantees for workers.
- Use social conditionalities on public funds and EU resources to invest in the training, retraining and upskilling of workers to ensure the skills needed for the green and digital transition, as well as the creation of quality apprenticeship and graduate entry-level opportunities.
- Promote and strengthen social dialogue and collective bargaining at all levels (EU, national, sectoral, regional and company).

We demand that the European Parliament, and candidates for the European Parliament elections in 2024:

- Commit to deliver a Just Transition in the move to a more sustainable mobility ecosystem.
- Finalise their work and reach ambitious agreements on EU files linked to the European Green Deal which are important to decarbonise the mobility ecosystem.
- Ensure a Just Transition framework and social conditionality in EU funding and state aids.
- Support candidates for the next European Parliament President and European Commission President who support a Just Transition in Europe.

We call on national governments to:

- Implement and monitor climate policy and the European Green Deal legislation in dialogue with the trade unions and ensure granular impact assessments as a basis.
- Adapt their Energy and Climate Plans as well as their Territorial Just Transition Plans to better anticipate changes in the mobility ecosystem that will impact transport and manufacturing workers along the supply and value chains.
- Develop and implement sectoral action plans with social partners to anticipate the green and digital transition, with quality social dialogue vital in ensuring a successful and fair transition for the sector and its workers.
- Provide adequate funding and support for Just Transition measures.
- Ensure active labour market policies to allow smooth transitions from one job to another and reinforce social safety nets for all workers, guaranteeing a Just Transition.
- Further invest in skills, including the development of flexible pathways between the worlds of work and education, including lifelong learning, modular learning systems, dual learning, eLearning and knowledge transfer.
- Use EU Emission Trading System (ETS) revenues, European funds (e.g. Recovery and Resilience Facility) to finance Just Transition measures based on social conditionality.
- Improve coordination with the energy sector to increase production of renewable and clean energies at affordable and stable prices as a key condition for the sustainable transformation of certain transport sectors.
- Take measures to promote the emergence of sustainable fuel production chains for the transport sector.
- Put forward candidates for the next European Commission with strong decarbonisation and Just Transition priorities.

We call on our social partner counterparts and employers' organisations to:

- At European level, to put Just Transition within the twin transition on the agenda of the European sectoral social dialogue and negotiate ambitious European social partner agreements.
- At sectoral and company level, to negotiate Just Transition Plans with the trade unions and/or works councils including anticipation and change management.
- Develop Just Transition Plans with trade unions and regional/national policymakers to ensure that the green and digital transitions are managed successfully.

- End precarious work, guarantee good working conditions and ensure workers' rights for all workers, including temporary workers and subcontractors throughout the supply chain.
- Build skills intelligence on emerging and disappearing occupational profiles and on future skills needs and invest in the upskilling and reskilling of their workforce, create quality apprenticeship and graduate recruitment programmes, and organise internal mobility to keep all workers on board.
- Invest in green technology to lower emissions and more sustainable fuels while ensuring high levels of occupational health and safety.
- Improve all aspects of decarbonisation and energy efficiency, from the start to the end of the journey.