

# Tracking the future

30 March 2022

## Conversation

Mrs Adina Vălean  
European Commissioner for transport

Mr Georges Gilkinet  
Belgian minister of Mobility

**EUROPA**  
ARTS FESTIVAL  
TRAINS & TRACKS



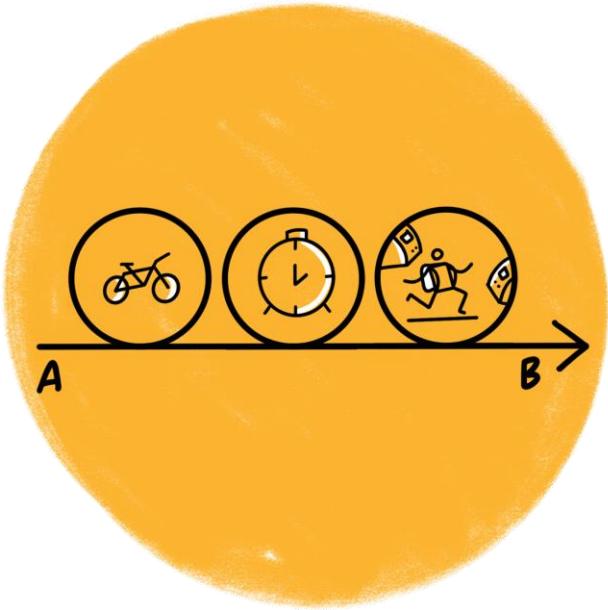
**Bozar**

# OBJECTIVE?



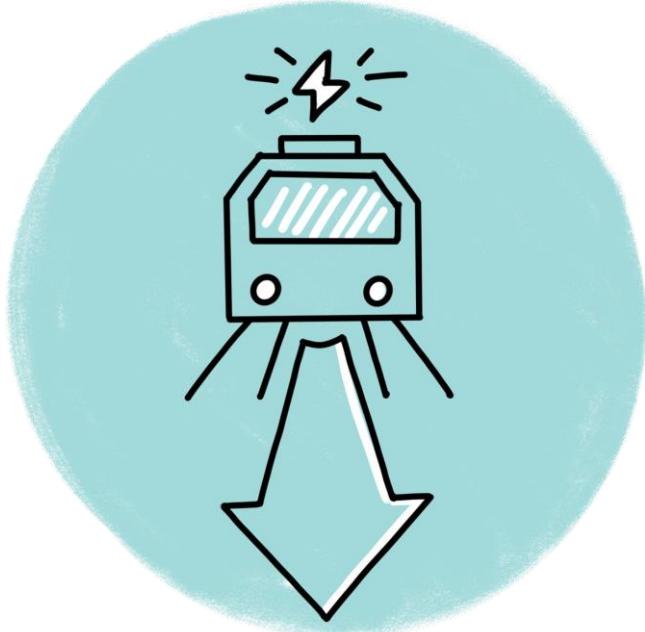
- Making recommendations for later policy debate
- 4 themes

# EFFICIENCY EFFICACITÉ



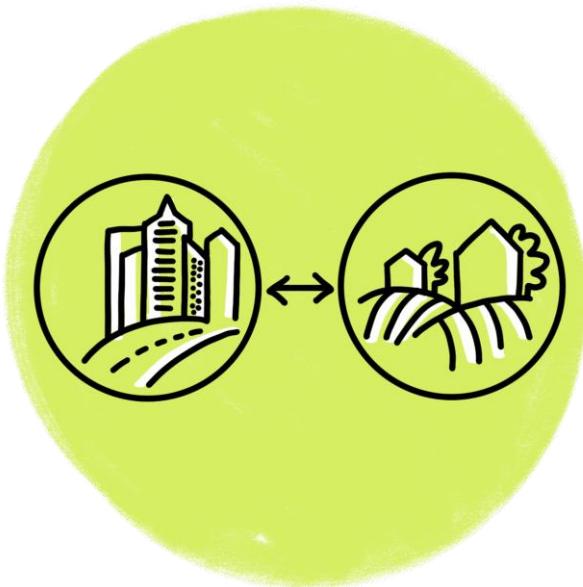
- National vs international travel
- Connections to other transportation
- Traveltime
- Traveling with bike

# SUSTAINABILITY DURABILITÉ



- **Railway vs Airfair**
- **Railway vs coachtravel**
- **Railway vs Car travel**
- **2050 Climate neutral Europe**

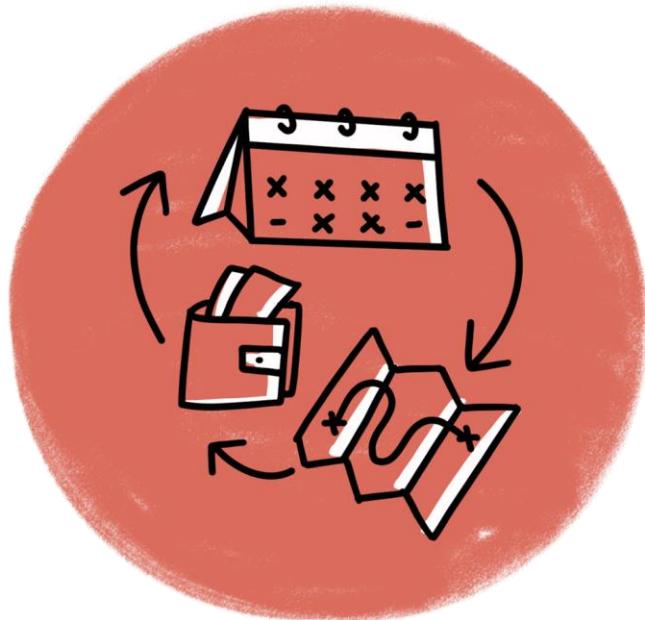
# Cohesion Cohésion



- **Connecting cities**
- **Rural areas vs cities**
- **Connection  
with other public  
transportation**

# ACCESSIBILITY

# ACCÉSsIBILITÉ



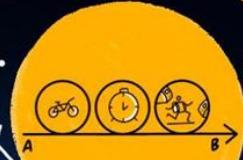
- **Pricing**
- **Services (schedule,  
booking, ... )**
- **Infrastructure**

# TRACKING *the* FUTURE

SUSTAINABILITY



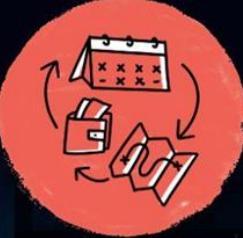
EFFICIENCY



COHESION



ACCESSIBILITY



**Bozar**

**EUROPALIA  
ARTS FESTIVAL**



WHAT do  
you see as  
a PROBLEM  
?

# TRACKING the FUTURE



TRACKING *the* FUTURE

Let's DREAM BIG

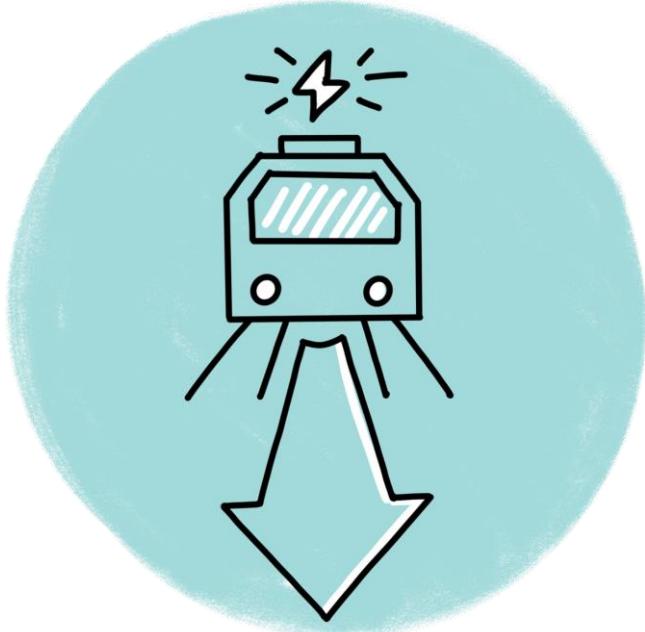




now let's make ...  
RECOMMENDATIONS

TRACKING the FUTURE

# SUSTAINABILITY DURABILITÉ



- **Railway vs Airfair**
- **Railway vs coachtravel**
- **Railway vs Car travel**
- **2050 Climate neutral Europe**

# Sustainability recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Change the mindsets and habits regarding mobility,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Educate citizens and business through EU programs such as campaigns, funds to increase the modal share of railway mobility in firm/school trips. “Green transportation weeks” in the education system, “Green ambassadors” in education and working places*

---

## 3 so that...

*By 2050 train becomes the most sustainable and the most widely used mode of transportation.*



# Sustainability recommendations



1 In order to...

*Railway travel more affordable and accessible,*

---

2 we need to...

*Gradually transfer EU subsidies from air travel to rail travel by 2030,*

---

3 so that...

*So that air travel journeys are replaced with railway travel!*



# Sustainability recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Stay with the pledge for 2050 carbon neutrality in Europe,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Follow allong with France's ban on flights that would take less than 2h30 by train, and extend this measure EU-wide,*

---

## 3 so that...

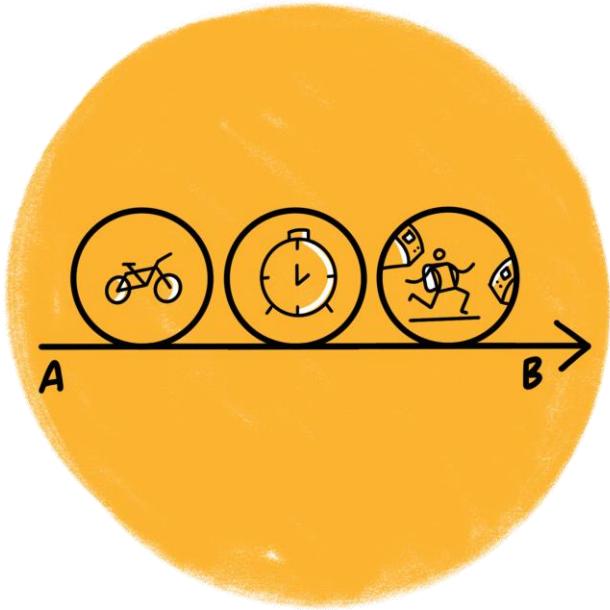
*Carbon emissions are reduced and railway journeys are increased!*





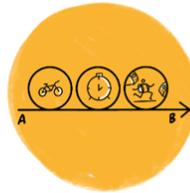
TRACKING the FUTURE

# EFFICIENCY EFFICACITÉ



- National vs international travel
- Connections to other transportation
- Traveltime
- Traveling with bike

# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Make train travel more entertaining,*

2 we need to...

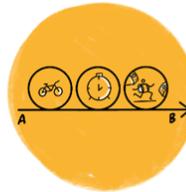
*Have activities on long distance trains (cinema, music, gym- and kids- wagon)*

3 so that...

*People will enjoy long distance/international trips!*



# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Break language barriers between travelers and staff,*

2 we need to...

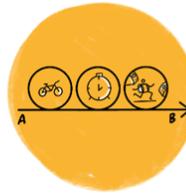
- Employ people who can speak a lingua franca
- Train the present employees

3 so that...

*Travelers can be better informed*



# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Make train transportation more efficient*

2 we need to...

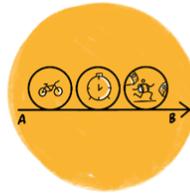
*Have a more interconnected network  
(integrated network of trains and public  
transport)*

3 so that...

*We can have shorter travel time frames*



# Efficiency recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Facilitate the way from train station to work and allow the realisation of big bicycle train trips (also across borders)*

## 2 we need to...

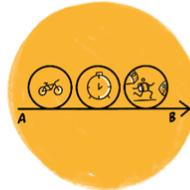
*Ensure that every single train has a bicycle cabin-place reserved for bicycle carriage*

## 3 so that...

*It is possible to take the bike on the train even for long distances or during rush hours.*



# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Travel efficiently*

2 we need to...

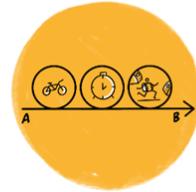
*Have stop-and intercity-trains that both go from A to B*

3 so that...

*People can be where they need to be in the most time efficient way*



# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Use the travel time efficiently,*

2 we need to...

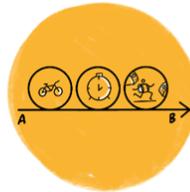
*Have wifi, plugs and tables to work on the train,*

3 so that...

*We can work on the train.*



# Efficiency recommendations



1 In order to...

*Plan your cross-european trips efficiently,*

2 we need to...

*Have a european information and booking platform,*

3 so that...

*We have all the information in one place.*



# EFFICIENCY



A STRONG STATE OWNED COMPANIES

5G on TRAINS

we need more COMPETITION

DIFFERENT

points of VIEW

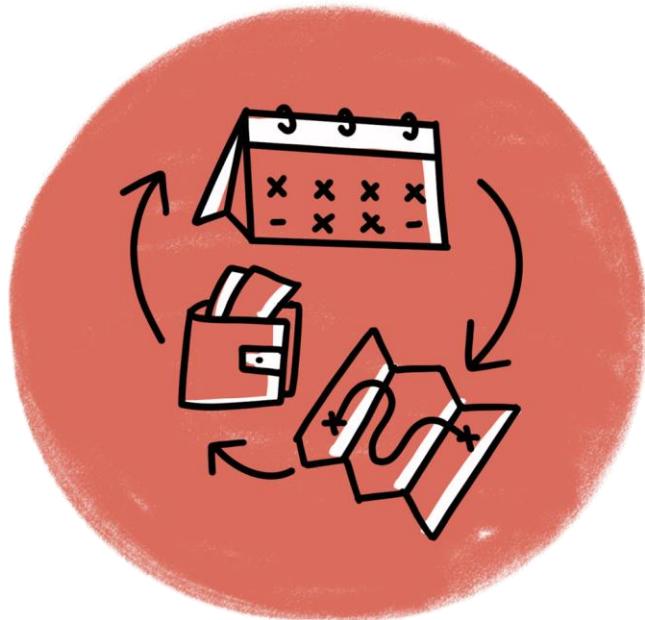
or COLLABORATION?



## TRACKING the FUTURE

# ACCESSIBILITY

# ACCÉSsIBILITÉ



- **Pricing**
- **Services (schedule,  
booking, ... )**
- **Infrastructure**

# Accessibility recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Promote train travel around europe, for everyone to discover Europe,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*create a lottery to win train tickets (interrail but everybody, also for families) → How to win??*

*1 - While buying a normal train ticket (national or international) people can buy a lottery one for a bit extra money that will be used to re-invest in train infrastructure  
2- just applying online, accessible for everyone then, there will be less chance to win ( $\frac{1}{3}$ )*

---

## 3 so that...

*To stimulate train demands, associating train travel with leisure and decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.*



# Accessibility recommendations



## 1 In order to...

Avoid national protectionism/price setting and facilitate better and more efficient cross-border travel solutions,

## 2 we need to...

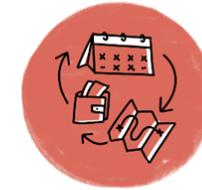
Implement a single market for railway competition across Europe with uniform rules for private bids,

## 3 so that...

Any private or state European operator can contribute to the improvement of pan-European railway travel (increasing quality and decreasing costs)



# Accessibility recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Improve accessibility to public transport information throughout Europe,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Enable and enforce (through regulation) the sharing of accurate transport information (schedule, booking, prices, length, platforms, stations) between member states,*

---

## 3 so that...

*Every EU citizen can access easy, accurate information about transports in their own country and throughout Europe.*



# Accessibility recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Improve accessibility to fast, cheap and efficient transport in Europe,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Cap prices at the same rate in all member states (absolute maximum) and provide more affordable options (relative maximum) for low income categories of population and youth (under 30 years)*

---

## 3 so that...

*Trains could be competitive in small budgets in comparison with flights and cars.*



~~TRAINS  
are no  
EXPENSIVE~~

# ACCESSIBILITY



TRAIN a  
MARKET or a PUBLIC  
SERVICE?  
it's a MONOPOLISTIC  
MARKET > PUT MORE  
BURDEN on more  
POLLUTING MODES

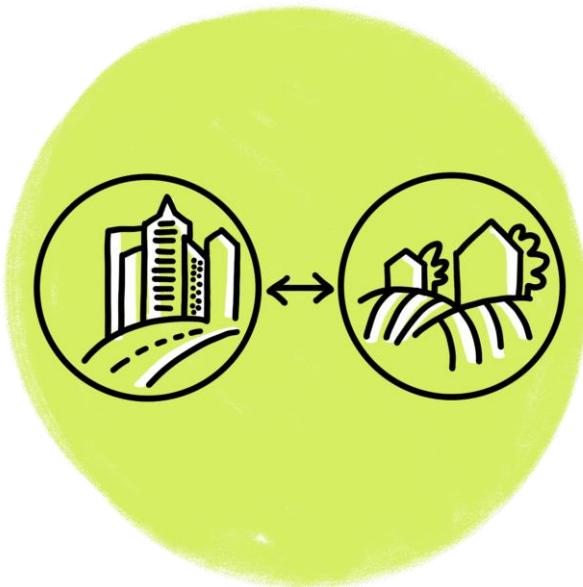
We need  
COMMERCIAL  
PROJECTS



TRACKING the FUTURE



# Cohesion Cohésion



- **Connecting cities**
- **Rural areas vs cities**
- **Connection  
with other public  
transportation**

# Cohesion recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Have a cohesive transport network across Europe, nation states, cities and rural areas,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Avoid unruled competition between transportation providers,*

---

## 3 so that...

*Everybody, everywhere, has access to the same level of transportation options.*



# Cohesion recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Change our fast paced mindset (lesson learned from pandemic),*

---

## 2 we need to...

- 1 - Make travel time more enjoyable
  - 2 - understand that travelling takes time
  - 3 - make travel time more sexy
- 

## 3 so that...

*A slower transport pace becomes the new normal.*



# Cohesion recommendations



## 1 In order to...

*Put the focus back on both cities and rural areas,*

---

## 2 we need to...

*Have a clear and legal European definition of rural areas (at Eurostat level)*

---

## 3 so that...

*Rural areas get fairly funded for transportation (and much more!)*



WE NEED BETTER FAIRER / solutions  
TRANSPORT by RAIL

# COHESION



ON a TRAIN there are many OPTIONS → REST → WORK → TALK → WATCH

We WANT to MAKE it EASIER!

WE NEED to:

- ✓ COOPERATE BETTER
- ✓ CONTINUE to SUBSIDISE

PLAN

RAIL will  
BECOME more  
AFFORDABLE

# TRACKING the FUTURE



{WE TRANSFORM THE  
INDIVIDUAL INTO  
COLLECTIVE THINKING}

our HANDS in the  
FUTURE TODAY and  
the FUTURE in our  
HANDS some  
DAY...



TRACKING the FUTURE

DREAM BiG slow down  
demand a lot BE BOLD  
from YOUTH

REVOLUTION COMES



# Keep the conversation going



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