

Press Statement

Prague Diplomatic Cycling Coalition supports Cycling Policies in Czechia

On the occasion of the World Bicycle Day, we, the Prague Diplomatic Cycling Coalition, express our support for the promotion of cycling policies in Czechia. Our coalition brings together nations with diverse transport backgrounds and topographic conditions, from the windy flatlands of the Netherlands to the warm hills of Lisbon and the busy streets of megacities such as Paris and Buenos Aires. What we have in common is a shared conviction that cycling deserves more priority as a sustainable, efficient, and healthy mode of transport with a positive impact on the economy.

Over the past few years, we have seen developments that make cycling more relevant and more attractive than ever: as a way to move around safely during the COVID-19 crisis; as a vehicle that is affordable in the face of soaring cost of energy; as a mode of transport that is environmental friendly, limits climate change, and helps solve congestion in cities across the world.

The urgency to prioritize cycling has been confirmed by several recent initiatives. In the EU, already 15 Member States¹ have signed the 2022 European Cycling Declaration, calling for an EU-wide approach to cycling and advocating for its widespread adoption across the continent. In February, the European Parliament overwhelmingly approved a resolution supporting enhanced European action in the realm of cycling. Also in other parts of the world cycling is getting more and more political support, ranging from Vancouver to Bogota and Tokyo. Sustainable mobility is an essential element of development strategies that aim to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Meeting the needs of people who cycle continues to be a critical part of the mobility solution for helping cities de-couple population growth from increased emissions, and to improve air quality and road safety.

The Prague Diplomatic Cycling Coalition stands united in supporting cycling policies in Czechia. Czechia has already made progress over the past decade in establishing its cycling infrastructure. To realize the country's full cycling potential, we support the further implementation of policies tailored to the specific needs of Czech cities and regions. Steps could include:

- Further development of safe and preferably separate cycling infrastructure to suit local characteristics and needs;
- Assessing where traffic regulations could be made more bicycle friendly;
- Making available more resources for cycling infrastructure and traffic calming measures;
- Setting up campaigns to stimulate cycling and raise citizens' awareness of its benefits; and
- Lowering of speed limits in city centers.

Czech citizens are similar to our own in that they have legitimate concerns about safety, infrastructure limitations and other potential bottlenecks. Our experiences show that through open dialogue among stakeholders, including communities, cycling organizations, and citizens, these concerns can be addressed and overcome.

¹ Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg, France, Spain, Slovenia, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Latvia, Greece

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Ambassador of Greece
Athanasios Paressoglou

Ambassador of Albania
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