

The United Nations presents

## Bikes vs Cars



### PASCAL SMET

Pascal Smet, from Haasdonk, studied law at the University of Antwerp. Smet has been working on mobility in Brussels since 2003, as the Brussels sp.a Secretary of State for Mobility, then the Minister of Mobility and Public Works in the Brussels government. In 2006, Pascal Smet was elected municipal councillor for the City of Brussels and he became the (detained) alderman for public works, participation and equal opportunities. As the Minister for Mobility and Public Works since 2014 Smet aims to foster sustainable urban development.



### JÉRÔME POURBAIX

Jérôme Pourbaix is Director of Regional Offices and Services at the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), coordinating its 15 regional offices worldwide. Previously he led UITP's international advocacy activities, focusing notably on the economic case for public transport and the future role of public transport in cities. He championed the inclusion of mobility in the new urban agenda to be set out at the Habitat III conference. Jerome has also supervised UITP's strategic projects and urban transport data collection activities. Before UITP he worked at the European Commission and the international city



### FRÉDÉRIC SALIEZ

An Architect and Civil Engineer, holder of a Master of Research in Geography, Frédéric Saliez is since 2012 the deputy Head of UN-Habitat Regional Office in Brussels. He advises local and national governments for urban planning, environmental protection and cultural heritage policies. He is the European focal point for UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme.



### DEBORAH SEWARD

Deborah is Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels. Prior to arriving in Brussels, she served as Director of the Department of Public Information's Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters New York. Before joining the United Nations in 2011, Ms. Seward was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings in Berlin, Bonn, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague and Warsaw. She holds an honours degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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**TONIGHT'S EVENT USING THE HASHTAG #CINEONU and #BIKESVSCARS**

UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit [www.unric.org](http://www.unric.org) for more information.

# BIKES VS CARS

Transport gobbles up over half of the planet's liquid fossil fuels and is responsible for almost a quarter of energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Our motorised lifestyle is causing widespread air pollution, over a million fatal traffic accidents per year, and chronic traffic congestion-impacts that can cost countries more than 10 percent of their gross domestic product.

To address the mobility challenge, the United Nations support applying the three-pronged strategy "Avoid-Shift-Clean". It consists of helping users avoid or reduce trips through smarter city planning and land use options, shifting passengers away from private vehicles to public and non-motorized transport, and making vehicles cleaner, through efficiency improvements and cleaner fuels. This is particularly important in the developing world, where walking can still account up to 70 per cent of all trips, while cities are rapidly expanding.

Within the UN system, this area of work is spearheaded by **UN-Habitat and UN- Environment**, two specialized programmes that have complementary mandates in the fields of urban development and the global environment respectively. As part of their Greener Cities Partnership, these programmes aim to mainstream environmental perspectives into urban policy-making and vice versa.

**UN Environment's** transport work is aimed at decoupling increased mobility from increased emissions. It is a partner in several leading global transport programmes in areas such as fuel economy, small particulate pollution and infrastructure development, implemented through public-private partnerships.

**UN-Habitat** calls for a paradigm shift in urban planning, encouraging compact cities and mixed-land use as a way to increase accessibility and to reduce the need for transportation altogether. To cut reliance on private motorized transport, UN-Habitat encourages cities to develop attractive, accessible, and affordable public transport systems, but also to increase and encourage the use of non-motorized transport, such as pedestrian movement or cycling. Because most trips involve a combination of several modes of transport, and because most large urban areas are administratively fragmented, UN-Habitat puts an emphasis on strategic planning and coordination from national and local governments who need to provide enabling legal frameworks and policies.

To help address the mobility challenge, UN-Habitat and UN-Environment offers a comprehensive package of knowledge, advocacy, and technical assistance to support national governments and local authorities in the development and implementation of sustainable urban mobility plans and investment strategies.

Find out more on [www.unep.org/transport](http://www.unep.org/transport) & <http://unhabitat.org/mobility/>

## HABITAT III

<https://habitat3.org/>

Habitat III is the **United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development** to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 –20 October 2016.

More than half of the world's population today lives in cities. And by 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the 21st century's most transformative trends. While cities have gone through massive transformations that have resulted in unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, we need to rethink the way we live in and manage cities to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to **discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed**, in order to fulfill their **role as drivers of sustainable development**, and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

Habitat III will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action oriented outcome document: the **New Urban Agenda**.

