
Auto makers and electricity sector call for rapid action on charging points under EU recovery plan

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The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) and Eurelectric welcome the focus on infrastructure for electrically-chargeable vehicles in the coronavirus recovery plan announced by the European Commission.

The associations support the goal of funding 1 million public charging points referred to in the plan. However, they note that this objective was already part of the European Green Deal, and that it falls well below what will be required in reality.

According to the Commission's own calculations, roughly 2.8 million publicly-available charging points will be needed by 2030 - some 15 times more than what is currently in place across the European Union.

That is why the auto and electricity sectors have joined forces to stress the increasing urgency to revise the EU's outdated Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (AFID). This directive, which was adopted in 2014, is not in line with the technical development of electric vehicles or charging technologies, and has also been suffering from poor implementation by member states.

ACEA and Eurelectric are therefore calling on the Commission to accelerate its plans for the AFID review as part of the recovery plan for Europe. This revised directive should introduce a much more ambitious approach for rolling out charging points and hydrogen refuelling stations across the entire European Union.

Infrastructure deployment (particularly across the TEN-T core and comprehensive networks and in urban areas) should be in line with the benchmarks for zero- and low-emission vehicles set by the EU for 2025 and 2030, and should consider the power classes of charging points and the charging capacities of vehicles.

Trucks and buses, for instance, have different needs to cars when it comes to infrastructure, due to their higher power and energy demand, as well as specific space, parking (for overnight charging) and access requirements.

The Commission also singles out the construction and building sector in its recovery plan, earmarking funds for renovation. ACEA and Eurelectric believe that this

“renovation wave” presents an ideal opportunity to ensure that charging points are integrated into both public and private buildings, through a dedicated financial envelope and related legislation.

To boost demand after the dramatic collapse in vehicles sales seen in recent months, the EU recovery plan also foresees to promote ‘clean fleet renewals’. “We need to see rapid action on infrastructure roll-out to give consumers confidence to go out and buy an electric vehicle, thereby ensuring that the fleet can be renewed in an environmentally-friendly way,” urged Eric-Mark Huitema, ACEA Director General.

“Embedding clean mobility in Europe’s new normal requires speeding up the launch of battery electric vehicles and the rollout of charging infrastructure, as well as upgrading the grids and developing the appropriate storage solutions. These four points must be central and interlinked in any discussion on the future of mobility, as well as in recovery plans,” said Kristian Ruby, Secretary General of Eurelectric.

(ACEA)