

# THE WAY AHEAD

Towards a fully sustainable transport  
and competitive market in Europe

## ABOUT US

Geopost is a **European leader in parcel delivery** and **solutions for e-commerce** operating in **more than 50 countries**, across all continents, through its network of expert delivery brands including **DPD, Chronopost, SEUR, BRT and Speedy**.



We have a resolute ambition in sustainable transport.

With **more than 8 million parcels delivered daily**, Geopost is **Europe's no 1 cross border road network**. The company's intrinsic connection with cities and local communities bridges the gap between major brands and consumers across Europe. This unique position allows Geopost to **drive change** and advocate for a transport system that prioritises **environmental sustainability, social responsibility** and the competitiveness of the **European Single Market**.

This document outlines actionable policy recommendations towards these overarching goals, while addressing critical concerns within the current landscape.

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## DRIVING CHANGE TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN EUROPE

### Infrastructure

Climate change and pollution demand urgent action. The Climate Law and European Green deal have set the pace for accelerating low and zero-emission vehicle deployment. For transport, legislators agreed on a -90% GHG emission reduction target by 2050 and supported Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), for the expansion of recharging and refuelling infrastructure across Europe. Lack of network of recharging points hampers zero-emission vehicle adoption and obstructs Europe's progress towards climate neutrality. Implementing AFIR is essential for lowering transport emissions and make the transition of the sector's fleet possible.

### Corporate Fleets: Setting the pace

Since 77.4% of EU goods are transported by land, transitioning corporate fleets to low and zero-emission vehicles is vital. Geopost advocates for establishing a mandate for sustainable corporate fleets, once the necessary conditions are in place, starting from road transport to recharging infrastructure. Ensuring that fleet requirements are equally applied to all stakeholders, and making financial incentives available for SMEs, will be crucial to avoid competition distortion among operators and make sure no one is left behind. Regulatory coherence, ensuring both demand and supply measures follow a common implementation timeline, will also be essential.

### Heavy-Duty Vehicles: Lowering carbon footprint

Heavy-duty vehicles contribute over a quarter of EU road emissions. Europe must fully deploy zero-emission trucks for fleet conversion by mid-century. The recent regulation setting CO<sub>2</sub> standards for heavy duty vehicle manufacturers signals to the market to scale up zero-emission truck production. Ensuring regulatory stability by securing the level of ambition set by the Regulation will be fundamental to creating an attractive framework for sustainable investments for both transport operators and the automotive industry.

### Enhancing Transport Efficiency: Promoting sustainable innovations while aligning norms across Europe

Sustainable transport innovations can play a key role in mitigating climate change and reducing pollution. However, transporters are today limited in the use of long-combination vehicles because norms are not fully aligned across Europe. The European Commission tabled a revision of the Weights and Dimensions Directive allowing for the use of longer and heavier vehicle combinations to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Using larger trucks can increase loading capacity by approximately 50%, leading to reductions in fuel consumption and road length utilisation. Timely adoption of the revised Weights and Dimensions Directive is essential to address legal fragmentation and facilitate the market entry of zero-emission HDVs.

### Fostering Multimodal Transportation Effectiveness for Sustainable Freight

Efficient multimodal transportation, combining road freight transport with other modes, such as inland waterways and rail, can contribute to reducing the carbon emissions. Enhancing rail transport efficiency and reliability is a necessary premise for a greater role for rail in freight transport.



## HOW EUROPE'S SINGLE MARKET CAN FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPETITIVITY

### Enhancing regulatory efficiency to foster better business' working environment

EU policymakers should champion a new initiative specifically dedicated to reducing bureaucratic red tape and streamline procedures, creating an environment conducive to investment. Harmonising regulations across Europe, and fully eliminating regulatory overlap, is key to addressing market fragmentation and ensuring a fair competition.

### Transforming border controls for optimal efficiency

Customs ensure fairness and security by applying uniform rules to all products entering the market. Digitalising and simplifying customs procedures is also essential for facilitating trade and improving controls. Revising the European Customs Code will clarify import-export roles and strengthen Europe's economic resilience.

### European global competitiveness through trade relations

The European single market is the backbone of the European Union. Its resilience is fundamental to safeguard Europe's economic security and assure the EU a unique position on the global political arena. The EU's economic security strategy should be grounded in strong international trade policies, supported by a more efficient adoption of free trade agreements with international partners.

At Geopost, advocacy is driven by a deep recognition of the shortcomings within the current landscape and a commitment to meaningful change. Our vision for the future encompasses sustainable transport, transparent consumer choices, and a robust trade and customs framework. Geopost is dedicated to supporting a more sustainable, fair and dynamic future for transportation and the European Single Market.

## OUR GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023



**57,000**  
Employees



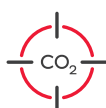
**2.1 BN**  
Parcels delivered  
worldwide



**108,000**  
Pickup points  
worldwide



**15.7 BN €**  
Revenue  
Asendia revenue included



**-25,763**  
Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>  
Emissions (vs. 2022)

A net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target by 2040 approved by the Science Based Targets initiative

## WE BELIEVE TRANSPORT POLICY CAN BE IMPROVED VIA 9 KEY AXES

### Sustainable transport

1.

#### Deploy recharging infrastructure: Advancing low emission vehicles

Implement the Alternative Fuels Regulation (AFIR) to ensure widespread deployment of recharging and refuelling infrastructure for low emission vehicles. This will enable the transition to low emission energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting environmental sustainability of the transport sector.

2.

#### Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Maintain the level of ambition for the production of low-emission heavy-duty vehicles. Without low emission trucks, road transport will not be able to reduce its environmental footprint.

3.

#### Advancing Low Emission Corporate Fleets

Support a mandate for low emission corporate fleets, contingent upon specific conditions to ensure practicality and effectiveness, notably infrastructure deployment, availability of low-emission vehicles and a level playing field of the requirements.

4.

#### Enhancing Sustainable Transport: Integrating modes for efficiency and reliability

Promote the integration of various modes of transportation to create a more efficient and sustainable transport system, by supporting more efficient and reliable rail transport.

5.

#### Harmonising Rules for Sustainable Transport: European modular system (EMS)

Harmonise the rules on truck weights and dimensions, to improve the efficiency and sustainability of freight transport.

### Internal market

6.

#### Streamlining VAT Reform for Market Simplification

Streamline and complete the VAT reform to simplify administrative burdens and enhance market efficiency, contributing to a more competitive European Single Market.

7.

#### Modernising Customs Procedures: Facilitating fair trade

Support the revision of the customs code as a way to modernise and simplify procedures to facilitate trade and improve controls.

8.

#### Leverage Europe's Trade Relations: Openness and coherence

Support open trade and efficient customs as a mean to maintain Europe's leading role in global economy.

9.

#### Simplifying Regulations to boost Market Competitiveness

Reduce bureaucratic red tape by eliminating unnecessary overlaps, and harmonise regulations across Europe to attract investments and boost the Single Market's competitiveness.