

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000750/25
to the Commission
Stefano Cavedagna (ECR)
(19 February 2025)**

Subject: Public transport price hike in Bologna and EU climate targets

The Municipality of Bologna's recent decision to raise the cost of bus tickets has sparked much concern among residents. From 1 March 2025, the cost of a single ticket will soar by 53.3%, jumping from EUR 1.50 to EUR 2.30. This price hike comes at a critical juncture for urban mobility in Bologna with the city contending with tram construction works and travel disruption on buses. Bologna is now the city with the most expensive public transport in Italy.

The 2019 communication on the European Green Deal introduced new ambitious climate targets, including the goal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. These targets were made binding in 2021, when they were laid down in the European Climate Law.

Public transport alleviates road traffic, improves energy efficiency and promotes a more sustainable mobility.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is the public transport price hike in Bologna — which will encourage the use of private vehicles and increase CO₂ emissions — consistent with the EU's climate targets?
2. Can the Commission take action to ensure that local public transport policies in Bologna and other European cities are consistent with the EU's sustainability goals?

Submitted: 19.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(4 April 2025)**

Specific features of local public transport systems, such as pricing or routes, are regulated at national, regional or local level.

To ensure that urban public transport across the EU is aligned with, and supportive of EU objectives for sustainable and smart mobility, the Commission has developed a policy framework for urban mobility ⁽¹⁾, recognising public transport as backbone for sustainable urban mobility, together with active modes (cycling and walking) as well as shared mobility services.

One of the tools to ensure that local policies are aligned with EU objectives is the new provision of the revised trans-European transport network Regulation ⁽²⁾, which requires 431 urban nodes to have a sustainable urban mobility plan by 2027.

Bologna is a mission city under the EU Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission ⁽³⁾. It was awarded the Mission Label in 2024 after a positive review of its Climate City Contract.

Bologna's strategy and action portfolio to decarbonise the transport sector tackles all the sources of emissions concerning transport and mobility present in the city, with particular emphasis on the creation of an enabling environment to reduce private car usage, offering alternative modes of transport, including a comprehensive revision of tariffs for tickets and passes for different categories of users.

Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility as part of the transition to a carbon-neutral economy is also one of the Policy Objectives of the 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) financial allocation to the region.

Through a total of EUR 40 million, the programme will promote measures consistent with the EU's climate targets with a focus on soft mobility, in particular pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12916-Sustainable-transport-new-urban-mobility-framework_en

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0812>

⁽³⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en