

## **EU ISSUES UPDATE**

**JANUARY 2021**



### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE**

#### **EP discusses Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy with Commissioner Valaen**

On 25 January the EP Transport Committee held an exchange of views with Transport Commissioner Adina Valaen on the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (see December 2020 EU issues update). While generally welcoming the Strategy a number of MEPs expressed concern that the Strategy's goals are too ambitious, notably given current context of pandemic and constraint in further technological innovations. However, some Green Group MEPs expressed their disquiet that the Strategy makes no mention of the banning the sale of combustion engine vehicles (as already put in place by some Member States) nor of phasing out their use. But the Commissioner made clear that she does not want to ban mobility options and believes that the combustion engine will be still used for some time – but that EU policies will ensure that they will be less polluting because of stricter emissions legislation and the availability of alternative, cleaner fuels.

The Transport Committee will draft a report on the Strategy for the European Parliament. FIVA will submit its views on the Strategy to the MEPs once the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs have been appointed.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Norway sells more electric than fossil-fuel powered cars**

Some years ago the Norwegian government adopted a plan to ban the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2025 and now it has reported that in 2020 for the first time electric car sales were greater than sales of petrol, hybrid, and diesel engines: 54% of vehicles sold in 2020 were electric. In 2019 electric car sales were 42% of total car sales. Cars with diesel-only engines have fallen from being 75.7 per cent of the Norwegian vehicle market in 2011 to just 8.6 per cent in 2020. The Government is using tax breaks and financial incentives to encourage the purchasing of more sustainable vehicles and analysts expect sales of electric vehicles to increase at an even

greater rate in 2021 with an expectation of 65% of sales and so making the 2025 target within reach.

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The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Lars Genild (Chairman), Giuseppe Dell'Aversano, Wolfgang Eckel, Carla Fiocchi, Laurent Heriou, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Kurt Sjoberg, Harit Trivedi and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.