



# PRESS RELEASE

**Eurocities, POLIS, and CLARS applaud EU Parliament's vote but seek inclusion of all vehicle-access restrictions for fairness.**

**30 April 2024**

Eurocities, POLIS, and the CLARS platform welcome Wednesday, 23 April's vote of the European Parliament on the **cross-border enforcement directive (CBE Directive)**, which extended the directive to cover violations of rules on **vehicle-access restrictions**.

While disappointed that all vehicle-access restrictions have not been included in the directive, the organisations expect that such an inclusion will drastically reduce the burden put on local enforcement authorities at the time of enforcing vehicle-access regulations. It will also resolve the inequitable circumstances among drivers depending on the location of their vehicle registration.

With already hundreds of vehicle-access regulations put in place in Europe, and many more to come in the next years, ensuring fair treatment between drivers is key to fostering the social acceptance of such measures. Their inclusion in this revision of the cross-border enforcement directive would have preserved the integrity of vehicle access regulations, which are key to decreasing air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as improving road safety in cities.

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**André Sobczak, Eurocities Secretary-General:**

'While the final outcome of the discussions is not ideal, we are pleased that EU policymakers have at least put the issue of the enforcement of local traffic rules on foreign vehicles on the table. As we approach an election year, I believe such a practical example can demonstrate why a European approach is necessary to address local issues. Our members will carefully monitor the reviewing of this directive and stand ready to remind the EU institutions about their commitment to continue to address the issue in the coming years.'

**Karen Vancluysen, POLIS Secretary General:**

'Cities and regions welcome the first steps towards a European solution to fair and efficient enforcement of access regulations. We thank the people in the Parliament, Council, and European Commission who stood with the local mayors, vice-mayors, professional drivers, and citizens on this issue. However, the text does not answer the immediate needs of ambitious cities pursuing clean air and climate neutrality. We need the next European Commission to take this fully at heart. European citizens deserve fairness and efficiency in the way Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs) are enforced.'

**Lucy Sadler, CLARS Coordinator:**

'We welcome the inclusion of road safety access regulations that will help make roads safer, and the revision clause to resolve the issue of enforcing the remaining access regulations to make roads greener and cities more pleasant. We look forward to the next steps that will finally enable cross-border enforcement of all vehicle access regulations. Solving issues like these is where the EU proves its worth — taking action that no other institution could do.'

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## Note to editors

**Eurocities**, the largest network of European cities, unites over 200 large cities from 38 countries, shaping policies for over 150 million people. With a focus on sustainability and inclusivity, Eurocities fosters urban environments where citizens thrive. Through advocacy and projects across nine thematic areas, it empowers cities to tackle global challenges locally. Founded in 1986, Eurocities facilitates collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation, ensuring cities play a pivotal role in shaping Europe's future.

**POLIS** is the leading European network of cities and regions on urban transport innovation, where European local and regional authorities have been working together since 1998 to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions. Based in Brussels, it facilitates knowledge exchange, supports integrated strategies, and advocates for members in EU mobility policy. POLIS fosters dialogue among local governments, industry, and research, aiming to improve economic, social, and environmental aspects of transport, making cities more livable and efficient through innovative solutions.

**CLARS**, by Sadler Consultants Europe GmbH, is a hub for urban access regulations like tolling and emission zones, aiding cities in addressing air quality and traffic concerns. It supports scheme implementation and is funded by services, fees, and sponsorships. Offering confirmed and potential schemes, EV insights, and data access, it's a crucial resource for sustainable urban planning. With a commercial model since 2017, CLARS ensures ongoing support for cities navigating access regulation challenges.

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