



High-level Panel:

Financing safe and sustainable transport systems

Road traffic deaths and injuries place an enormous economic burden on countries. We need new strategies to ensure that investments in all relevant Sustainable Development policy areas yield a return in terms of road safety and sustainable mobility.

– Road safety must be included from the initial stage of each and every project within the road transport system, said Lilyana Pavlova, vice president European Investment Bank. It should also be included in our health systems, educational systems and other sectors.

– Road safety impact assessments should be included in infrastructure projects in the same way as e.g. environmental impact assessments are today, said Pavlova.

Road traffic deaths and injuries impose enormous burdens on those who are affected. However, they also pose huge economic burdens, sometimes up to 5 percent of GDP. For that reason road safety measures should not be seen as a cost, it must be seen as an investment.

Road safety must be integrated in many processes from the beginning, said panellists. It is not effective to make infrastructure investments and try to create road safety afterwards.

It is important to raise awareness by making the link between road safety and loss of GDP even clearer. The minister of finance must be brought into the heart of discussions. Youth, especially in low and middle-income countries, is affected. This means that the growth of a nation is affected.

Road safety is a business case for investors. Insurance companies have huge sums of money under asset management. Folksam has already invested in green bonds from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank. If there were possibilities to invest in road safety bonds, it would be of great interest with a clear business case. Including road safety in sustainability reporting will be important, said panellists.

Introduction

Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President | European Investment Bank (EIB)

Panel participants

Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy | African Union Commission

Angela Maria Orozco, Minister of Transport | Ministry of Transport | Colombia

Barry Sheerman, Member of Parliament for Huddersfield | United Kingdom

Pere Navarro, Director General for Traffic | Ministry of Interior | Spain

Makhtar Diop, Vice-President | Infrastructure Practice Group | World Bank

Ylva Wessen, President and Chief Executive Officer | Folksam Group | Sweden