

MEDIA BRIEFING

Paris, 4 April 2023

SOLUTRANS 2023:

LEZ AND URBAN DELIVERIES AT THE CENTRE OF THE SECTOR'S CHALLENGES

Since its DNA is innovation, and it has always been a leading light on mobility issues, SOLUTRANS 2023 will once again this year go to the heart of the issues facing the sector with an array of solutions to support all transport stakeholders in dealing with the decisions of policymakers regarding the green transition. Among them, the deployment of LEZ (low emission zones) in many city regions plunges the road transport world into the midst of multiple challenges.

THE NEW RULES OF LEZ

Brought into law in France by the mobility framework Act in 2019 and extended by the Climate and Resilience Act in 2021, the introduction of (ultra) low emission zones (LEZ/ULEZ, known as ZFE-m in French) addresses the obligation set down by the European Commission to improve local air quality. The arrival of LEZ in urban hubs will not only require cities to reorganise themselves but will also compel transporters to adapt in order to comply with new traffic and access rules. And while the Climate and Resilience Act only sought to restrict access for vehicles under 3.5 tonnes, most greater city councils have extended the measure to heavy goods vehicles (HGV) in addition to light commercial vehicles (LCV). By 2025, 43 cities of more than 150,000 inhabitants are expected to have introduced an LEZ.

In addition, on 14 February this year the European Commission announced its intention to reduce the carbon emissions of HGVs above 5 tonnes by 2040, with two intermediate targets: 45% less carbon dioxide by 2030 and 65% less by 2035, with the final goal of 90% by 2040.

This poses a serious challenge to transport professionals whose delivery organisation arrangements will be heavily impacted, and who will have no other choice than to renew their vehicle fleets in favour of "cleaner" fuels in the very near future. And it is a massive conundrum for carriers when one considers that 98% of goods transportation today is performed thanks to diesel.

A REVOLUTION IN THE HAULAGE WORLD

Consequently, **transporters must renew their fleet by buying vehicles that pollute less and run on new energy sources.** Electric, hydrogen and biofuels appear to be the most unavoidable solutions.

For more than 90% of transporters, their visit to SOLUTRANS is therefore an obligatory step in their renewal process. In addition to seeing the trucks on display, they will also be able to find solutions for their purchase at the show.

Another critical issue is urban deliveries. With these new regulations, transporters are under the obligation to replan their delivery routes every day. While a full tank of diesel would enable them to complete their round in one day or several days before refuelling, new energy sources will necessitate the development of charging infrastructure in city centres, which is almost inexistant today, and will force them to refuel every day.

SOLUTRANS: A TRADESHOW TO TURN THE CORNER AND REVEAL SOLUTIONS

The role of SOLUTRANS is not only to inform people, but also to offer innovative solutions to support transporters during this time of regulatory change.

Carbo bikes, a solution for urban deliveries

Hitherto considered as a “gimmick”, the cargo bike is beginning to increasingly establish itself in the logistics chain and offers a considered solution to mobility issues. A genuine market vertical is starting to form, and cargo bikes are taking over from electric vehicles, in particular when it comes to the “last yard” and door-to-door deliveries to consumers.

To cater to the constraints of last yard delivery, many exhibitors will be in attendance at SOLUTRANS on a dedicated space to showcase their zero carbon, socially responsible and ecologically sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, a major talk will be delivered on 23 November on the same theme.

Car parks

It cannot be disputed that cities are changing, and mobility is adopting a new face. This involves less space for the personal car, and the emergence of new mobilities. As a result, many car parks are often not occupied to their maximum capacity. Parking is being revisited... Why not use this existing infrastructure to turn it into logistical facilities? A depot as an interface between the truck and the cargo bike for last mile delivery, or a charging/refuelling station for renewable energy-powered trucks? Time is short, but there are genuine projects happening inside cities.

This subject will be addressed in a major talk at Solutrans on 22 November.

Retrofitting

The issue of retrofitting as an energy mix solution for LCVs in an urban environment will also be at the centre of debate. Keeping a vehicle and making it cleaner thanks to a new engine unit is a pertinent solution to meet air quality standards, as it reduces the emission of greenhouse gases and pollutants. In the case of heavy goods vehicles, retrofitting with a fuel cell is a possibility, but remains a substantial investment.

This subject will be addressed in a major talk at Solutrans on 22 November.

**All these subjects will be covered in the SOLUTRANS launch press conference
on Wednesday 12 April at 10am CET in the FFC headquarters.**

About SOLUTRANS

SOLUTRANS: THE GLOBAL HUB FOR HEAVY & LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

SOLUTRANS, bringing together market players from across the heavy and light commercial vehicle industry, will hold its 17th edition from 21 to 25 November 2023 at Lyon Eurexpo, France.

The event, belonging to the French Bodywork Federation FFC and certified by the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA), brings together, over 90,000 sqm, nearly 50,000 professionals along with 1,000 exhibitors and brands from all over the world, under a shared banner: “Energy transition: all players in a greener industry.”

SOLUTRANS is the two-yearly rendezvous of one of the most innovative sector verticals, from industry to services. Global economic conditions make SOLUTRANS a showcase for the exceptional performances of HGV builders, bodywork manufacturers, vehicle fitters, OEMs, manufacturers of workshop equipment, tyre professionals and distribution networks.

SOLUTRANS also aims to echo the challenges of the sector, with a specific focus on energy sources, retrofitting, city centre deliveries and its constraints, etc. Moreover, this year the show will present its vision of the “last yard”, with an approach centring on city centre access restrictions, and low emission zones in particular. New delivery methods, notably cargo bikes, which are becoming a part of the transport ecosystem, will have a large educational and test area allotted to them in the centre of Hall 1.

With its status as a global industry event, SOLUTRANS has set itself the goals of supporting the industrial sector, promoting solutions to professionals, and anticipating the challenges that lie ahead.

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