



# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## **EU Commission welcomes Regional Initiative to Promote the Use of Battery Electric and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles in Europe**

Brussels, March 16, 2011

On March 16, 2011, HyRaMP – the European Regions and Municipalities Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, established in April 2008 and representing over 30 regions and cities in Europe – announced its intention to broaden its support of fuel cell electric vehicles to battery electric vehicles and accelerate the uptake of electromobility in Europe.

Jean-Eric Paquet, European Commission's director of Trans-European transport networks & Smart transport expressed his confidence that the partnership will ensure a sufficient critical mass within industry for the deployment of battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles, and help coordinate the build-up of the relevant infrastructure across the EU. "Coordinated regional and local programmes would serve as the backbone of such a development, as regions and municipalities are key players for electromobility as highlighted in the Commission's Communication on a European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles of April 28, 2011. We look forward to your important contribution in advising the Commission on the energy and transport policy framework at the European level."

HyRaMP president Andreas Ziolk, director of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Network of North Rhine-Westphalia and vice-chair of the German Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association commented: "We are very pleased that the EU Commission has recognized the role of European regions and cities in accelerating the roll-out of low carbon vehicles to ensure cleaner urban transport, involving local stakeholders and creating public acceptance. HyRaMP is committed to take concrete action and to collaborate with the European Commission to ensure that EU policy and future financing programs respond to the needs of local stakeholders."

Daniel Kusch, Siemens CFO for Electromobility, pointed to the similar objectives of HyRaMP and the EU Green eMotion project, an EU project of the EU Green Car Initiative coordinated by Siemens. The project, launched on the same day in Brussels will accelerate the roll-out of electromobility and create public acceptance by large-scale demonstration across Europe. "It is high time that consumers are provided with attractive clean transport solutions that can rely on a vast and intelligent infrastructure throughout Europe. The Green eMotion project intends to undertake an assessment to evaluate areas of potential cooperation and areas of common interest with the new HyRaMP Initiative."

Electromobility, as understood by industry and utilities, comprises battery electric as well as hydrogen/fuel cell powered vehicles and the relevant infrastructure needed for the supply with energy. Both propulsion technologies offer complementary transport solutions and have many elements in common.

Electromobility today is considered one of the prime candidates to reduce the oil dependence of road transport by introducing alternative energy sources as indicated by the Commission's recent report on Future Transport Fuels<sup>i</sup>

Many local officials, representing HyRaMP members, are responsible for their governments' clean transport and energy decisions, facing choices between different technology solutions, including battery, biofuel and hydrogen powered vehicles. They are also increasingly confronted with the impact on the use of primary energy sources and local grid capacity to recharge and refuel these vehicles, as both battery and fuel cell vehicles are powered by similar primary energy sources including renewables. Much is needed to ensure a sustainable roll out of vehicles, create opportunities for local industry and accelerate public awareness.

For more information on HyRaMP's activities and on how to become involved, please contact Moschoula Krambousanos at the HyRaMP secretariat in Brussels: [secretariat@hy-ramp.eu](mailto:secretariat@hy-ramp.eu).

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<sup>i</sup> [Expert group report: Alternative fuels could replace fossil fuels in Europe by 2050 \[IP 11/61, 25/01/2011\]](#)



Group photo taken at commemorative event: Brussels, March 16, 2011