



Reino de los Países Bajos

Technical Conference on the promotion and use of bicycles as commuting system

CONCLUSIONS ON THE CONFERENCE

1. Pressure from civil society, social and political organizations may facilitate a modal shift from cars to bicycles as a consequence of the negative social impact of massive car use and the high death-toll of traffic accidents (especially among children) comparable to a contemporary pandemic.
2. That shift in favour of lower speed transport and increased use of bicycles originated during the first energy crisis in 1973 that raised significantly the price of oil for motor vehicles, reducing workers' purchasing power. A modal shift implies a change of commuting patterns through moderate consumption systems and widespread use of public transport.
3. Social dialogue between trade unions, employers and authorities, especially on commuting through active involvement of sector and civil organizations based on the common understanding (as it occurred with the modal shift in the Netherlands).
4. A fiscal policy favourable to bicycle use is a clear example of a tool oriented to healthy, sustainable, equitable and affordable mobility.
5. It would be recommendable to replicate in Spain the Dutch model of social dialogue, participation and fiscal policy in order to reorient daily commuting and mobility patterns.

Madrid, September 2012