

**Statement by the Workers' and Trade Unions Major Group**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007 – Morning Session**

**Session: Policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: Air pollution/atmosphere**

**Chair,**

Trade Unions welcome the clear link between air pollution and public and occupational health stated in the SG report.

Trade Unions also support its call for investment in the introduction, upgrading and expansion of affordable and efficient public transportation systems.

In addition, I would like to promote a policy option related to the need for integrated mobility strategies.

Trips to the workplace represent one third of the overall mobility demand. 80% of workers get to work mainly by motor vehicles, 61% of which are single-occupant vehicles.

To encourage sustainability, the involvement of enterprises is highly needed, by setting policies promoting further use of public transportation and easing the use by workers of less polluting means of transportation.

These measures need to be negotiated with the workers' representatives.

Trade Unions already began to organize information campaigns, awareness raising and training activities, in order to encourage change in workers' behaviour. These 'mobility plans' had already been put in place in several workplaces in Spain, Belgium, Italy, UK and the US, and are detailed in a recent publication by ISTAS on good practices related to sustainable mobility at the workplace, that will be soon included in the Matrix.

Thank you, Chair.