

CO-CREATING THE FUTURE OF URBAN LOGISTICS: A STRATEGIC DIALOGUE BETWEEN CITIES, PARKING MANAGERS, AND LOGISTICS INNOVATORS

Introduction: The collaboration between **EPA**, **POLIS**, and **ALICE** has evolved into a strategic alliance empowered by the impressive dimension of its representation covering organisations — public and private, industrial players, and mobility experts operating in all EU countries. This alliance bridges the gap between local authorities, parking developers and managers, mobility planners, logistics operators, and innovators.

Together, we have advanced zero-emission urban mobility and logistics, fostered policy dialogue, and promoted stakeholder engagement across Europe. Each of the three organisations has a long track record that supports a shared vision for reshaping the urban environment and advancing sustainable solutions.

The collaboration between POLIS, EPA, and ALICE is critical, as each network brings complementary expertise to addressing urban freight and curbside management challenges. **POLIS** connects cities and regions, ensuring solutions align with local needs and policies. **EPA** provides knowledge on parking and curbside operations, which are central to freight access and space allocation. **ALICE** drives innovation in logistics and supply chains, promoting efficiency and decarbonisation. Together, they co-create scalable, integrated approaches that reduce emissions, optimise curbside use, and make urban freight more sustainable and resilient.

Almost five years ago, we organised the first joint EPA, POLIS, and ALICE session to discuss and share opportunities in curbside management, along with the first joint survey. Our organisations identified the need to further explore opportunities in urban planning, space management, and co-creation through R&I projects within the Horizon Europe Programme. This resulted in two calls for proposals focused on digitalization, space management, and urban planning in 2021 and 2022. DISCO is one of the resulting projects, enhancing collaboration among the three associations since May 2023.

Current Milestone: The joint session at the EPA Conference 2025 marks a new chapter in our collaboration. It is not only a reflection of our shared journey but also a call to action for companies and cities to **co-create the future of urban logistics and space management within an integrated mobility transition scheme**. This session represents a starting point towards policy recommendations to be published in 2026 through the DISCO project, in which our three associations/networks work together.

Key Messages:

- **Long-lasting collaboration:** Our partnership, based on a Europe-wide overview, has matured into a strategic platform for dialogue and innovation, empowering cities and companies to jointly address urban challenges.
- **Cross-sectoral engagement:** We invite parking managers, logistics providers, and local authorities to share their needs, concerns, and ideas. This session and our networks provide spaces for mutual learning, co-design, and policy development.
- **Digital and physical integration:** We advocate for the development of **Urban Data Spaces** and the **Physical Internet** to enable seamless access to infrastructure and services, facilitating the use of shared spaces, creating business opportunities, and minimising access barriers for collaboration.

- **Competitiveness and sustainability:** By linking the Green Deal with competitiveness, we aim to position urban logistics as a driver of European innovation and resilience. The twin transition — green and digital — is transforming the urban landscape, where long-established practices are being challenged and new opportunities and needs are emerging, creating a fertile ground for innovation and business growth.

Call to Action: We encourage companies, cities, and stakeholders to:

- **Join** our networks and working groups.
- **Share** use cases and innovative and technical practices to solve policy barriers and challenges, enabling value creation out of potential opportunities.
- **Engage** in policy dialogues and co-develop actionable guides.
- **Contribute** to harmonised Urban Data Spaces and common data standards as tools for competitiveness, providing a trusted and strategic approach to integrated urban space management.
- **Prioritise** the adoption of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) and Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULPs) as key instruments to balance environmental goals with economic competitiveness. Leveraging these tools can also strengthen local economies by reducing inefficiencies, congestion, and last-mile distribution costs.
- **Promote and support** Public-Private initiatives.

Closing: This joint statement is a **testament to our shared vision and commitment**. We look forward to hearing from participants, learning from their experiences, and continuing this journey together.

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