

Press Office
Press Release

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Barcelona plans to renew 100% of its bus fleet with 'clean' vehicles

TMB's commitment to decarbonisation and reduced emissions means that more than half its buses will be electric powered by 2030

A monographic seminar was held yesterday morning, entitled "TMB's Commitment to Green Energy", which detailed the road map for **improving the environmental quality of Barcelona's bus fleet**, for which TMB plans to purchase 210 battery-powered electric vehicles, 46 hydrogen and 154 gas hybrid vehicles during the 2021-2024 period. This means that over the next four years, 100% of the fleet's new additions (410 units) will be clean vehicles, while 62% will be zero emission, going way beyond the European guidelines of 45% and 22.5% respectively.

The seminar, held online, was opened by the president of TMB, **Rosa Alarcón**, who reminded attendees of the target to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030. "Europe is calling for specific plans and actions, so TMB has taken on the challenge of decarbonisation and intends to put it into practice," she asserted.



The seminar's keynote presentation, on TMB's commitment to green energy, was given by **Gerardo Lertxundi**, the CEO of TMB, and **Jacobo Kalitovics**, director of Barcelona's bus network. They explained that the cornerstone of the proposal to decarbonise public transport and curb the climate crisis is the efficient electrification of the bus fleet, which includes careful planning of charging infrastructures in both bus depots and roadside. In this respect, TMB is promoting an innovative project to use electricity from the metro network to supply its buses, resulting in savings of up to 30%.

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The first bus routes in Barcelona to be electrified in 2021 will be three of the most heavily used in the high-performance network: H16 (which is already 32% equipped with electric vehicles), H12 and V15. By 2030, **more than half the fleet will be electric powered.**

Hydrogen fuel cells

At the same time, TMB has started incorporating hydrogen fuel cell technology, which also has zero emissions, by contracting eight standard vehicles and awarding the concession to supply green hydrogen from a plant to be built next year on the Zona Franca industrial estate, which will be the first plant of its kind for public use in Spain. The adoption of hydrogen by TMB enjoys the support of the European JIVE 2 programme for promoting zero-emission fuel cell vehicles, which is co-financed by the European Union.

Finally, the third way forward to reduce emissions from the Barcelona bus network is the adoption of biogas, a green energy that TMB is promoting through its involvement in research projects such as LIFE Nimbus to turn treatment plant sludge into fuel. Meanwhile, since 2019 all the new gas-powered buses bought by TMB have been hybrids, leading to significant savings in consumption and emissions.

Indeed, Barcelona's bus fleet is now at the forefront of Europe thanks to its low levels of gas and harmful particle emissions, following on from earlier environmental conversions that have led to a fleet in which 63.3% of the 1,157 vehicles are either hybrid or powered by compressed natural gas or electricity.

Public policies

One of the first sessions featured presentations of public policies to promote renewable energies by **Rosa Alarcón**, the president of TMB and councillor for Mobility at Barcelona City Council; **Teresa Ribera**, fourth vice-president of the Government of Spain and Minister for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge; and **Damià Calvet**, Minister of Territory and Sustainability at the Government of Catalonia.

Towards the end, a round table was held entitled Clean energy in public transport: innovation and knowledge, with the participation of **Noshim Omar**, CEO and founder of ABBA; **Umberto Guida**, director of Knowledge and Innovation at UITP; **Freddy Bergsma**, senior manager of Toyota Motor Europe's Business Strategy Division; with **Josep Maria Armengol**, director of the Bus Technology Division as moderator.

The seminar was organised by TMB in collaboration with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the Association of Urban Public Transport Operators (ATUC). You can view the whole video at <https://events.tmb.cat>