

SMC is Sweden's only road motorcycle association. With roughly over 65 000 members, an awarded education programme, legal advisory and other working fields we play a significant role within road safety in Sweden. We do not only represent our members but any of the 300 000 motorcycles and their riders in our country.

Despite our geography and rough climate, powered-two-wheelers have over the last years come to play a significant role in our urban areas. The greater Stockholm area for instance has 2,3 million inhabitants placed on an area of roughly 6500 sqkm. Therefore, travelling distances can be long. Thus, public transport, walking or cycles are not always an option. People living in Greater Stockholm therefore often need to find other alternatives to commute to and from work, the car being the most popular choice. However, the results of this are traffic jams on our main roads and within the city.

Different means of transport are sharing the roads being a hazard for one another. Powered two wheelers are considered as vulnerable road users. Due to our size compared to other vehicles we are often not seen, or the car drivers misinterpret traffic situations which can lead to serious accidents. According to our statistics in more than two thirds of all traffic accidents including a motorcycle and another vehicle that occur in Sweden, the responsibility lies within the other driver.

Yet, owners of powered two wheelers within our urban areas argue that it is cheaper to own and maintain their vehicles. It is also easier to find parking spots and to cope with traffic jams with a motorcycle. Furthermore, despite public transport and new technology our members also claim that the opportunity to freely choose your departure to and from work and the possibility to transport yourself from one point to another is another argument for buying a powered two-wheeler. Others claim that their commuting time compared to public transport has declined significantly, saving up to two hours per day. In addition to that SMC has organized mobility tests in urban Stockholm, and shown that motorcycles are the most efficient way of commuting.

Based on that the only solution for future planning must be that individual transport will always play a role in urban areas. Motorcycles do and will always play a significant role in this topic and must therefore not be forgotten in the planning and engineering of future urban transport.

On the circumstances above SMC therefore urges the following:

- Implementation of safety measures for powered two wheelers. Rising awareness of motorcyclist's role within traffic! This could be done e.g. through encouraging urban areas to open bus lanes for motorcycles wherever possible to ensure their visibility and thus safety.
- Encouraging urban areas to introduce a higher density of motorcycle parking. Motorcycles need less space in our cities and can therefore contribute to a better flow in traffic.
- Bear in mind that thanks to EU's latest changes, motorcycles have lower CO2 emissions than other vehicles.
- Encouraging the use of electric motorcycles and other powered two-wheelers as well as the development of better, more lasting and more environmental-friendly electric engines.
- Introducing powered two-wheelers as an option to cars.

We would like to thank the Commission for its attention on this matter. We would also like to offer a dialogue and co-operation with SMC in order to improve urban transport for all its participants.