



## Policy highlights

### Policy and Regulation for a green logistics concrete scaling up

The SPOTLOG partnership's recent exchanges in Mechelen, Belgium, and Lille, France, underline the need to upscale city logistics for enhancing sustainability and efficiency in urban areas, also by encouraging and stimulating more sustainable logistics practices. The events provided an invaluable platform for stakeholders and partners to share experiences, address regional challenges, and explore concrete solutions for a greener urban logistics. The importance of tools such as SUMP and Sulp were emphasized. As logistics systems evolve, policies and regulations can support the shift by addressing challenges, incentivizing innovation, and ensuring collaboration. The events highlighted the need for cities to define the minimum sustainability requirements for logistics activities and integrating them into a proper planning.

In this document, the key points discussed and raised during the events are summarized.

#### *Mechelen - Belgium*

Following the Exchange of Experience Event held in Mechelen, Belgium, on the 10th and 11th of December 2024, the SPOTLOG partnership had the chance again to exchange knowledge and experience amongst partners and stakeholders on innovation in sustainable logistics and the need for upscaling. Upscaling city logistics is essential for enhancing sustainability and efficiency in urban areas. By optimizing transportation systems, reducing emissions, and improving resource allocation, cities can minimize congestion and environmental impact. Smart technologies and integrated planning can streamline deliveries, reduce costs, and increase the overall reliability of urban logistics. This approach supports the growing demand for goods while preserving the quality of life in cities. Ultimately, scaling up these efforts is crucial for building more resilient and eco-friendly urban environments.

Key highlights from SPOTLOG interregional policy learning exchange:

- *The need for policy following the transition curve:*  
Policy is crucial in guiding the transition curve of sustainable logistics, helping stakeholders move from initial resistance to eventual adoption of efficient



practices. As logistics systems evolve, clear policies can ease the shift by addressing challenges, incentivizing innovation, and ensuring collaboration. Effective policy frameworks support long-term sustainability while navigating the complexities of this transformation.

- *The SUMP can be the way forward to upscaling:*

The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in Constanța promotes efficient transport networks, reducing congestion and emissions, which directly benefits logistics operations. By integrating green mobility solutions, it enhances the sustainability of goods distribution within the city.

- *The impact of a zero-emission zone:*

The zero-emission zone in Warsaw encourages the use of eco-friendly vehicles for logistics, reducing air pollution and promoting cleaner transportation options. This initiative fosters greener supply chains by limiting the environmental impact of urban deliveries.

- *SULPs for different goods deliveries:*

Cities experience diverse goods flows, including consumer products, raw materials, and services, each with unique logistics needs and challenges. To optimize urban logistics, tailored policy approaches are necessary for each flow, addressing specific demands such as speed, environmental impact, or cost-efficiency. A one-size-fits-all policy cannot meet these varied requirements, making customized solutions crucial for sustainable urban logistics. During a 2-hour workshop the group worked on different ideas per goods flow.

#### *Lille – France*

Following the Exchange of Experience Event held in Lille, France, on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, the SPOTLOG partnership gathered to discuss on the topic of how to encourage and stimulate more sustainable logistics practices. Focusing on a little more on medium-sized city the event was named “Driving Changes: Sustainable Logistics Solutions for Medium-sized Cities”. The event highlighted the necessity for policymakers, particularly in cities, to define the minimum sustainability requirements for logistics activities and insert these in policies to create a level playing field for economic actors. Sustainable logistics aspects also need



to be inserted in urban planning documents and policies especially to identify real estate which could be dedicated to logistics activities.

Key highlights from SPOTLOG interregional policy learning exchange:

- *Encouraging sustainable last-mile deliveries through regulation:*  
Need to put in place the correct set of regulations framework to make more sustainable last-mile logistics practices economically competitive compared to traditional methods. More precisely, certain geographical areas, in cities particularly, need stricter regulations regarding how deliveries are made (mode of transport used, time of day when the deliveries are made, who is allowed to make these deliveries...)
- *Integrating Sustainable Last-Mile Logistics into Urban Planning:*  
Urban planning plays a crucial role in facilitating efficient and environmentally friendly last-mile deliveries. By incorporating considerations such as delivery hubs, designated loading zones, and pedestrian-bike friendly infrastructure, cities can create a more sustainable and liveable environment.

In conclusion, these new SPOTLOG partnership's exchange events in Mechelen and Lille have added another brick in the discussion useful for building sustainable urban logistics. The events were a new and further demonstration of how innovation goes hand in hand with technology, but also with the need for policies and regulations. And as the whole project clearly shows, the dialogue between the various parties, involving public and private, must be constant and continuous, to highlight challenges, critical issues, good practices and possible synergies.