



Leaseurope Feedback on the European Green Deal: Just Transition Fund

Leaseurope, the European Federation representing the leasing and automotive rental industries, wholeheartedly supports the European Commission's commitment to tackling climate change, and in ensuring that no industries and regions are "left behind" in the green transition, which will be supported through the Just Transition Fund.

Scope

The Commission has outlined that the purpose of the Just Transition Fund will be to design a tailored package of measures across the range of available support from the Commission, the EIB and other international organisations in a simple and integrated manner, accessible to both businesses and public sector authorities. Article 4 does not however provide any guidance on how the funds are re-distributed at national level, and which entities are eligible to benefit from the programme.

This is a cause for concern for the leasing and rental industries, as based on experience with other support programmes of a similar nature in the past, these industries have often been excluded at national level from the eligibility criteria. This issue has most recently been addressed in re-cast Clean Vehicles Directive which clearly notes that "In order to help ensure that the potential benefits are fully exploited, the Commission should provide guidance to Member States with regard to the different Union funds that might be used, and should facilitate and structure the exchange of knowledge and best practices between Member States in order to promote the purchase, lease, rent or hire-purchase of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles by contracting authorities and contracting entities". The role leasing can play in this context was also referenced in the 2017 GEAR 2030 report.

The leasing and rental industries are also instrumental in facilitating the green transition, and have a particularly prominent role in allowing SMEs to upgrade their products/equipment to more sustainable models without the high costs associated with purchasing these products outright. Leasing also helps drive uptake of clean vehicle technology, with pollution from leased car fleets steadily dropping each year. Additionally, leasing can ensure access to capital for sustainable energy production like wind turbines, biofuel processing plants, photovoltaic panels, long lasting battery cells etc.

Concrete measures

In order to ensure that leasing and rental can continue to play an instrumental role in supporting and financing the green transition, Leaseurope would like to ensure the scope in Article 4 is further defined. In particular, we would support enshrining in legislation that the acquisition of assets and services provided and financed via leasing and rental companies are not excluded from support measures at national level, in a similar vein to what is already set out in the Clean Vehicles Directive.