

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

6th of February 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Cc: Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP, Lilian Greenwood MP, Kerry McCarthy MP,

Joint letter: Call for regulation to decarbonise heavy goods vehicles

As representatives of the logistics and charging industries as well as civil society, we are calling for a regulation to set a clear pathway to decarbonise HGVs and buses in the UK.

Heavy goods vehicles are at the heart of our nation's economy, transporting vital goods nationwide. The sector, like many, is facing a key moment of change with the transition to a net zero economy.

Although the UK Government announced the ambition in 2021 to achieve 100% zero-emission HGV sales by 2035 for vehicles under 26 tonnes, and by 2040 for larger HGVs, and the UK was in the first wave of signatories of the Global Memorandum of Understanding on Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles—which calls for 100% zero-emission sales by 2040—it is crucial to adopt a regulatory framework to support these targets and a clear roadmap for how the sector will meet them. The industry urgently needs certainty regarding the pathway to compliance. The European Union has already established a clear regulatory framework for decarbonising trucks, buses and coaches, providing the EU's heavy-duty sector the lead time and certainty needed to transition.

To remain truly competitive, we encourage the UK to accelerate progress. The ZEV mandate for cars and vans, brought in from January 2024, is an example of the UK Government providing regulatory certainty for industry, that gives a clear trajectory for accelerating zero emission vehicle sales and is helping to attract billions of pounds in green EV investment from charging infrastructure to battery manufacturing.

Bringing forward regulations to decarbonise the HGV and bus sectors will provide the certainty needed for the automotive sector to invest and transition to zero-emission truck and bus

technologies, and for the charging and refuelling industries to invest in the infrastructure needed for a successful transition.

Together, we call on the Government to bring forward the consultations on regulatory proposals for decarbonising the heavy-duty sector by the 1st of March at the latest. We believe this is necessary to ensure the UK HGV industry begins to get the certainty and investment it needs to make progress on decarbonisation.

Now is the opportunity to put the UK's HGV industry among the world's leading when it comes to innovation and climate action. We hope that the government will seize this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

