

THE PATHWAYS COALITION

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The message from the industry to the United Nations: A transition of the transport sector in line with the Paris Agreement is possible, but action is needed from both industry and politics.

During the UN Climate summit in New York, Scania's CEO Henrik Henriksson and Siemens Norden's CEO Ulf Troedsson participate in UN headquarter meetings, discussing the path towards zero emissions from heavy duty transports by 2050. Studies initiated by The Pathways Coalition have not only shown that fossil free heavy duty transports can be achieved within the timeframe of the Paris Agreement, but also that the transition in some scenarios can be socioeconomically beneficial. However, new technology and infrastructure need to be rolled out at a very high pace, and this requires intense collaboration – within the industry and between business and politics. This is the central message from The Pathways Coalition during the UN Climate summit in New York.

In connection with the climate summit, several sessions are organized on different topics that are central to reach the targets in the Paris Agreement. Sweden and India have a joint responsibility for the track Industry transition and one of the seminars addresses the changes necessary to achieve fossil free heavy duty transport.

- To enable that the heavy duty transport sector achieves targets in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, the transition to renewable alternatives and electrification of transports must be done at an unprecedented speed. Numerous alternatives are available on the market and there is need for more. However, we cannot wait for the whole palette of solutions to be in place before we act. The transition must start now, says Henrik Henriksson, CEO of Scania.

The Pathways Coalition has conducted extensive studies of heavy duty transports in several markets. These reveal that preconditions for a transition and the degree of market maturity vary greatly between different markets, and currently no country can present a curve of emission reductions from heavy duty transports steep enough to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement. The Pathways Coalition regards the attention the UN has directed towards this highly important area – in terms of combating climate change – as very positive.

- The technology for fossil free transports exists, but there is a need for brave decision makers who dare making the decisions necessary to start implementation on a larger scale. We need both electric roads, fuel cells, batteries and biofuels as well as expansion of infrastructure to reach the 1.5 degree target. This means we must start building now – there is no time to lose, says Ulf Troedsson, CEO of Siemens in Sweden and the Nordics.

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The Pathways Coalition was formed by Scania, H&M, Siemens and E.ON to accelerate the transition to fossil free commercial transports. The springboard of the coalition is the study “The Pathways Study: Achieving fossil-free commercial transport by 2050”. The study concludes that it is possible to achieve fossil free commercial transports within the time frame of the Paris Agreement, and that this also is socioeconomically beneficial. However, reaching the goals requires a transition of unprecedented speed and cooperation between companies as well as between business and politics.

Cooperation throughout the value chain is key to success for a swift transition, and therefore the members of the coalition represent companies within infrastructure, energy supply, vehicle manufacturing and retail business with a transport procurement perspective. The coalition builds knowledge on drivers and obstacles for the transition through projects in key countries. In this way we can share new knowledge to inspire others, but also influence politicians and decision makers to create the right circumstances for a fossil free commercial transport sector.

The study: “The Pathways Study: Achieving fossil-free commercial transport by 2050”: <https://www.thepathwayscoalition.com/resources/the-pathways-study-achieving-fossil-free-commercial-transport-by-2050/>

Report on the Swedish market: “Fossil free Alternatives for commercial road transportation in Sweden”: <https://www.thepathwayscoalition.com/resources/alternative-fuels-for-commercial-road-transportation-in-sweden/>