

Need for Joint Efforts

My name is Hans Lindqvist, former member of European Parliament, KOMPASS Group Chairman and Council member in Värmdö Community.

First, I am very pleased and honoured to be with You all at this sustainable transportation Conference in Ithaca talking about the Podcar City. We need change in thinking. And we need change in acting. The world needs change away from greenhouse gas emissions and climate traps to renewable energy resources and sustainable communities, regions and nations build on modern, transportation systems like podcar.

That's why we are here, politicians, global activists, local representatives, experts in planning, energy, computer science and manufacturers. But Podcar City is something much more than a conference. It is an important step into the future and the beginning of a new commitment to the world – a commitment to sustainable mobility.

I'm the chairman of KOMPASS – a growing network of local authorities in Sweden which cooperate with plans, opinion work and events. Since a year the South Korean steel giant Posco has poured money into a test track run by a subsidiary called Vectus in Uppsala. That has started up a process. KOMPASS has since the start half a year ago some 10 communities gone far in planning and in addition some 15 others which discuss podcars. (picture 1) The network is now opening up internationally where the Ithaca conference is an important step. We are very much interested in discussing an international network with all of you. (picture 2) Please join our KOMPASS meeting 3 pm tomorrow, Tuesday. (picture 3).

We need to cooperate with other cities that develop the idea in USA, like California, England, like Heathrow, which we visited on our way here, Abu Dhabi, Korea etc.

In Sweden we have just had a study presented by SIK – Swedish Institute for Transport and Communications Analysis. They posed the question: which traffic solution would actually be the best as to economy, environment, accidents if you look at it without any prejudice?. The answer was podcar/PRT. You will hear more from that tomorrow in track B.

I and Yvonne Blombäck, sitting there, are local and regional politicians in Varmdo community and the Stockholm regional council. We are engaged in environment and podcars and believe something real good will come out – even if we think it takes too long time to realize

Maybe, we have time but not the world. Today's transportation system is reaching a dead end – irrespective of whether oil price is going up or down. Climate threat, accidents, congestion, and valuable space is swallowed by roads and parking places. The costs increase.

Public transportation is developing but has difficulties in attracting private car users. That's here the internet of mobility comes into the picture. Podcar/PRT is utilizing the best in the private car system as well as in the public transportation one.

But here, please listen to an advice to all of us. I have been involved in different environmental movements for 40 years. Don't make the car an enemy to podcars. Let's instead have the car industry Ford, Chrysler, Volvo, Saab, Renault, Fiat involved in the need for change. They have the knowledge, the money the networks. What they need is a positive opinion and support, much support, our support to make podcars a complement to cars. Let's say 10-20 per cent to begin with. How many million car transports is that?

Another thing. It is important that the start of our journey to the podcar city will be successful. We can't afford any mistakes. People must experience that the first pilot tracks of podcars is something positive, that reshape daily living, studying, working, spare time for the better. That podcars make life easier and environment and climate to feel better.

Podcars has low construction, energy and operating costs, can be solar-and wind powered, is adjusted to the disabled and the elders, is environmentally friendly, no waiting time, no congestion, no accidents. And more space in the cities for other more meaningful activities.

Dear, friends. Let the Nordic optimism and the American "do-ism" be the refreshing wind of change that will make Ithaca a place to remember.

Why aren't cities already filled with PRT tracks and pods. The problem is not technical or economical. It is political. In November you are electing a new president in the US. Why not ask them

Barack Obama and John McCain. Are you prepared to change... to a modern, sustainable, transportation system like Podcar and PRT? You can hear the answer. Yes we are. Then you ask. When will you start? Where will you start?

We have a similar possibility in Sweden that we will use. From first of July 2009 Sweden is chair-nation in the EU with our prime minister Fredrik Reinfeldt being the president of the European Council. He will also as EU-president to prolong or start up a new climate-agreement after Kyoto that will have a great importance for our whole globe. We will take all opportunities to ask him the same question. Are you prepared to propose a change in the European Union to a modern, sustainable, transportation system like Podcar/PRT? He can only give one answer.

Yes I am. Yes we are. Let's go to work. Need for joint Efforts
Thank You.