



Brussels, December 12th, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Signature of the CWA Cooperation Working Arrangement between the Horizon Europe Partnership “2Zero” and Regione Piemonte (Italy)

On December 12th, 2024, Regione Piemonte Delegation in Brussels hosted the signing ceremony of the Cooperation Working Arrangement (CWA) between the Horizon Europe partnership “Towards Zero Emission Road Transport” (2Zero) and Regione Piemonte. The agreement aims to accelerate the transition towards zero-emission road mobility across Europe.

The co-programmed Horizon Europe partnership “Towards Zero Emission Road Transport” (2Zero) and Regione Piemonte strengthened their collaboration by signing a Cooperation Working Arrangement (CWA).

The CWA establishes a strategic cooperation umbrella to promote synergies among EU and regional funds, particularly Horizon Europe and ERDF. The agreement aims to align Piemonte’s R&I priorities with 2Zero partnership’s objectives, advancing zero-emission road transport and supporting climate, safety, and environmental goals, in line with the 2Zero Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The core of the Arrangement is to foster joint efforts to support parallel and sequential funding opportunities for innovation, training, and regional development, maximizing scientific, socioeconomic and environmental impact.

Promoting collaboration between European Union programs and regional initiatives is a shared priority for both 2Zero partnership and the European Commission, as it is key to achieving the transition to zero-emission mobility and the objectives of the European Green Deal. For Regione Piemonte, the first European region to formalize a Cooperation Working Arrangement with 2Zero partnership, this Arrangement represents a significant opportunity for synergies. It ensures the Piemonte ecosystem remains aligned with European targets and activities, strengthening its role as a key player in the evolution of European automotive strategies and the future of clean and sustainable road transport.

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director General of the DG Resarch and Innovation of the European Commission:

“Accelerating the transition towards zero-emission road mobility across Europe is key for our future. The Cooperation Working Arrangement between the Horizon Europe partnership “2Zero” and Regione Piemonte is a significant step in this direction, promoting synergies among EU and regional funds to support climate, safety, and environmental goals. This agreement will help align regional activities and investments with the 2Zero partnership's objectives, fostering a more sustainable and innovative mobility ecosystem in Europe.”

Stephan Neugebauer, Chairman of the European Green Vehicles Initiative Association for the 2Zero Partnership (EGVIAfor2Zero):

The 2Zero partnership is supporting the transition towards zero tailpipe emission road mobility across Europe, and this transition can only be successful if we act at every level, from the global, to the European, national and regional ones. Piemonte is a region with a strong automotive ecosystem, in which we have many active members. Aligning EU and regional priorities will surely be an asset to support their competitiveness in the coming years. EGVIAfor2Zero is proud that 2Zero is the first co-programmed partnership to officially strengthen its links to regional activities with the signature of this CWA, and leading the way for more cooperation in the future.

Andrea Tronzano, Regional Minister for Economic Development, Regione Piemonte:

“Piemonte is proud to play a strategic role in raising the objectives of the 2Zero partnership, thus contributing to the European vision of sustainable and zero-emission mobility. Collaborating in this direction represents not only a responsible choice but also a concrete and tangible step toward achieving the ambitious climate targets set by the European Union. Furthermore, it underscores the value of synergy between regions, European institutions and industry to jointly address the significant challenges of our time. It is with great honor,” **stated Minister Tronzano**, “that I emphasize Piemonte’s leading role: we are the first European Region to sign this agreement with 2Zero. This achievement reflects our historical and long-standing tradition in the automotive sector, strengthened by an innovative ecosystem of dynamic companies, suppliers and academic excellence. These expertise and resources place us at the heart of the transition toward greener and more sustainable mobility. Regione Piemonte reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that this transition unfolds gradually and in a balanced way, promoting technological neutrality and laying a solid foundation for sustainable growth and competitiveness – crucial challenges that affect all of Europe”.

Background notes

The Horizon Europe Co-Programmed Partnership “2Zero”:

The “Towards zero emission road transport” (2Zero) is a co-programmed Partnership funded under the Horizon Europe programme aiming at accelerating the transition towards zero tailpipe emission road mobility across Europe. Formally launched on 23rd June 2021, the 2Zero partnership builds upon the successes of the European Green Cars Initiative (EGCI: 2009-2013) and the European

Green Vehicles Initiative (EGVI: 2014-2020). With the support of five European Technology Platforms (i.e. ERTRAC, EPoSS, ETIP-SNET, ALICE and BATT4EU Horizon Europe co-programmed partnership), 2Zero investigates innovative zero tailpipe emission vehicles technologies and their integration in the eco-system, contributing to boost the EU competitiveness and technological leadership.

Automotive Sector in Regione Piemonte:

Regione Piemonte is an Italian leading region for the automotive industry, with a robust and well-structured supply chain that accounts for more than 30 percent of national turnover in the sector. Torino, the beating heart of the region, has a long and prestigious tradition in this field, having been home to major Italian brands such as FIAT - now part of the Stellantis Group. The entire Piemonte stands out as a hub of innovation, thanks to a dynamic ecosystem involving global manufacturers, specialized suppliers, forward-looking players and top research institutions such as the Politecnico di Torino. This network is a key player in the development of cutting-edge technologies, including electric vehicles, autonomous driving, hydrogen and sustainable materials.