Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to submit comments to the Draft global action plan to promote physical activity.

The Dutch Cyclists’ Union supports the main goal of this plan and would like to contribute to its objectives.

As we know from our experience in the Netherlands, a high cycling and walking participation can be a key factor for creating an active and healthy society.

We therefore appreciate the attention that is being devoted to the position of cyclists in the draft plan.

With regard to the content, we have three suggestions at this stage:

1) Para. 92 mentions the importance of ‘Effective education campaigns aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of social injury risk factors and effective interventions’.
   We do very much agree with the importance of effective education campaigns. However, we believe that the focus of such campaigns should be mostly on the positive (health) benefits of cycling, in which safety/risk factors of course also form an important element.

2) In the Draft global action plan, under proposed action 3.3., more attention could in our opinion be given to the ageing population and the importance for Member States to have programs in place that can help this group maintain their healthy lifestyle among others by creating awareness among this group about changing physical (dis-)abilities.

3) We believe that paras. 142-145 are key to bridge the gap between different domains. For instance, when it comes to cycling, the health and traffic safety domains could definitely better reinforce each other. It might however be really difficult to have a national action plan in place for all different forms of physical activity, as they all bring their own world and relevant actors. With regard to cycling we would therefore favour a national cycling plan or agenda, as is currently being realized in the Netherlands for the period 2017-2020.

Realizing that our comments have been submitted after the deadline, we hope that our comments can still be taken into account.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

With kind regards,
Jonneke Reichert
Programcoordinator Traffic & Health
Dutch Cyclists’ Union