



To the kind attention of

INSERT REF

SUBJECT: Invitation to participate in the 21 October "Streets for Kids" initiative

Dear **INSERT REF**,

We hereby inform you that as a group of parents/associations we have joined the "Streets for Kids" mobilisation promoted by the Clean Cities Campaign, a network of more than 60 European associations advocating for zero emission urban mobility by 2030. Our request is simple: that the mayor of **XXX** gradually closes the streets in front of our schools to cars and other polluting traffic.

On 21 October, in many cities all over Europe, children and their parents will take to the streets to demand more "school streets". In May 2022, almost 400 groups of children and parents in 18 countries took to the streets to ask for clean air, in our first ever "Streets for Kids" day of action.

We will organise **[BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION]**.

The event will take place on 21 October, at **XX:XX**.

Why "school streets"?

Continuous exposure to pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide from traffic (and in particular diesel engines) causes serious damage to children's health: asthma, lung and heart disease, damage to brain cells, and the ability to learn. The WHO recently lowered the tolerance limits for this pollutant to 10 µg/m³ from the previous 40.

School streets are a useful tool for reducing air pollution in places where our daughters and sons spend a good part of their day. In London, for example, school streets have been shown to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels by up to 23% and to significantly reduce vehicle traffic throughout the day. School streets are also essential to achieving zero-emission mobility and give space back to people, not cars.

In some European cities, school streets are already an everyday reality: London and Paris have built 500 and 170 school streets respectively in the last few years and are committed to significantly increasing these numbers in the coming years while improving the quality of existing ones. The cities of Brussels, Madrid, Barcelona and Lyon are also following this example.

[NOTE: For groups based in the cities mentioned above, this paragraph should be removed]

With the October 21st initiative, we are asking the city administration to improve the safety of home-school journeys and drastically reduce motorised traffic around schools by:



1. Building **XXX** school streets in the city within the next two years: starting with making existing temporary school streets permanent and launching new trials (each to be made permanent within one year)
2. Approving a timetable in which the administration commits to establishing school streets for all kindergartens, primary and secondary schools (with justified exceptions) by 2030, and setting interim targets
3. Opening up a regular exchange with parents groups, schools and civil society organizations on school streets and the safety of home-school journeys
4. Establishing mobility managers at municipal and/or school level to work on school travel plans in collaboration with the relevant agency/body
5. Incentivising walking and biking to school, with engagement of civil society organizations to plan for ad hoc activities
6. Planning the systematic securing of pedestrian and bike crossings and home-school routes to encourage walking and cycling, micro-mobility and children's autonomy
7. Raising awareness through a communication campaign and the production of information materials for parents and teachers, as well as gadgets for children
8. Promoting forms of incentive through games and virtuous competitions between schools and rewarding the schools that have so far made an effort in this direction

We invite you to patronise/attend our event on October 21 **at XX:XX, in front of the XXXX school.**
We would be happy to explain our proposals to you in detail.

Yours faithfully,

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