

EnviMin Fechet: Electrification of the fleets of large freight carriers could be mandatory in the future

The electrification of the fleets of large freight carriers could become mandatory in the future, and the government should have a supporting role, Minister of the Environment Mircea Fechet told the Best Electric Van in Romania 2023 gala awards.

He said that Romania has already pledged, together with the other member states of the European Union, to reach climate neutrality by 2050, and so far - if we look at its trajectory in that regard - we find that in the energy sector, residential heating, industry, agriculture AND waste management Romania is on schedule compared to the emissions of 1990, less so in the transport sector, where a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions is registered.

The minister added that this phenomenon is a natural one, because currently there is a much larger number of vehicles on the streets of Romania than there were more than 30 years ago.

"But, once again, that compels us to take some immediate and consistent measures. That is why I hope that today we will be able to reward the champions of innovation, less pollution, greener freight transport. And I also hope that there will be continuity in this event, in its first edition today, and that that alongside passenger transport, alongside the cars that we already finance, we can also discuss the expansion of funding programmes in the future."

Fechet went on to say that funding non-polluting transport started under the Rabla Plus Programme in 2016, when the purchase of 39 cars was funded.

"Since then, more than 36,000 purely electric cars have been driving the streets of Romania with zero emissions, on funds from the Environmental Fund Administration (AFM), and we managed to keep one of the largest funding, of approximately EUR 10,000 for every car. However, I'm glad that the discussion is evolving towards other types of transport."