Microconference V01 - eng

The question we’re asking ourselves today is how can new mobilities improve urban life?

For me, the city of tomorrow is the opposite of what Paris has become today. Meaning, this horrible and immense traffic jam in which you can’t move and where in the moment when you’re sitting at a terrasse for a drink you don’t have these incredible noises and terrible smells which make you leave after 15 minutes, because your head is exploding and you don’t want to be there.

So, the mobility of the future is quick, does not smell bad, functions day and night and allows me do to what I want with the city, so that it’s at my service, instead of me being at service to the city. So it really is essential to all those technologies which will allow you to be fast, to not be stuck in traffic jams.

Our objectif is to work on fluidity. For me, the beltway in the morning is Paris’s biggest parking lot, because when you’re driving with 10 km/h that’s the speed for when you’re searching for a parking space or in a private parking lot.

The car is a tool of freedom. With time, it has become a burden. It is something that is expensive. It is an extreme challenge to find parking space today. My dream is to find a mobility that gives us freedom again. And in the end it doesn’t matter which kind of vehicle I want to use, it can be a scooter, it can be a shared vehicle, it can be a vehicle where I’m alone, because at that moment I need to work quietly or it can be a vehicle that allows me to meet people, why not.

The air pollution is at 86%. 65% of French residents state that they are worried for the health in future because of air pollution. So, how to reduce noise and pollution? Obviously it is through an evolution of the vehicles. So I think that in the next two, three years we will see self-driving cars in operation. They are electric vehicles, less pollution, less noise, which bring people from point A to point B.

When getting in a car like this, am I really safe and secure?

There still is a huge amount of work to do for these new forms of mobility to be accepted.

There is one point I would like to talk about concerning technology.

What about all those people losing their jobs because of all those automatized systems and others. Imagining being in 1990 and considering the growth of the Internet, I think of all the people who will lose their jobs, but I don’t know yet the new profession of e-communication manager which will exist in any small or medium-sized business. So it’s the same thing with artificial intelligence and the rest of it, if the self-driving car is about to come. So I am afraid for the driver, but I don’t know yet which kind of incredible jobs we will invent in ten years and which will come to replace them.

Some last words on the emerging economies, because there is one thing we forget, it’s that they have learned frugality. And with very little, their creativity has increased tenfold. There are people, not very far, who, because they have certain constrains, reinvent the world at an incredible speed. There is this frugality and it pushes innovation. Innovation today - and this is not exaggerated optimism, it’s just reality when you look at these last years - either we decide that it is destructive or we decide, and it is on us to decide, that it creates value.