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TRANSPORT



EUROPE

PRESS RELEASE

OUR NEXT OPEN LETTER TO THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS: THE PROGRESSIVE RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT DURING COVID-19



BRUSSELS, 28 APRIL 2020

The local public transport sector is impacted in an unprecedented way by the COVID-19 crisis.

As we face these next steps, UITP has taken the opportunity to once again **address the European institutions on the progressive resumption of services and the survival of urban public transport** and local mobility services, in an Open Letter sent in the lead-up to the latest EU Council meeting (23 April 2020).

Considering the impacts of coronavirus outbreak, [UITP joined forces last month with the IRU, Polis, EuroCities and CER to issue an Open Letter](#) to the **President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Council Charles Michel and David Maria Sassoli, President of the European Parliament** calling for their ongoing support now, and in the times that lie ahead.

While the overall social, economic, and financial impact of the pandemic on local public transport is still uncertain, we are now entering a new phase of this crisis.

With the progressive resumption of services expected in the coming days and weeks, the sector will have to face multiple complex challenges in order to play its part in post-lockdown strategies.

THE DETAILS

By issuing **a second Open Letter** to better reflect where we now stand, UITP Europe would like **to illustrate the current situation in three parts: a focus on resuming services, action needed concerning revenues, funding and finance and the new Green Deal and climate change.**

Resuming services...

Though the pandemic is still active, it is important to anticipate the progressive lifting of the lockdown and prepare to swiftly resume public transport operations in due time.

However, many issues will have to be addressed before services can be operated in full capacity to answer the demand for mobility.

These include guidance on the wearing of masks, social-distancing, protecting workers and communicating with passengers.

Measures needed at the EU level...

With a focus on the urgent measures that need to be adopted at the EU level in order to preserve the public transport ecosystem, several key points should be addressed.

Funding and finance to offset impact of decreased farebox revenues and additional costs must be considered.

Some public transport operators risk bankruptcy during the crisis therefore tax exemptions and debt reimbursements should be discussed.

Given the current circumstances, showing flexibility when it comes to the implementation of EU legislation will also be imperative.

The Green Deal and climate change...

We must strongly reaffirm the need to strengthen the Green Deal objectives in the face of environmental concerns – and climate change must stay high on the political agenda.

Public transport is, and will be, a key sector for both the economic recovery and the achievement of the Green Deal objectives. The European Green Deal remains Europe's most important sustainable growth strategy.

As the economy recovers, it should be steered towards a Green Deal compatible growth. Given the economic consequences that the sustainable public transport sector is facing due to the crisis, it is vital that the EU prioritise political and financial support for sustainable urban modes of transport.

THE NEXT STEPS

UITP's new Open Letter to the European institutions details in full each of these points as the continent carefully considers the next steps for society.

What is clear is that the continuity and survival of the public transport and local mobility services is essential for Europe and all European citizens - and especially for the many professionals depending on a well-functioning local transportation network to go about their daily lives.

Public transport systems are vital to the economic recovery and for keeping the Green Deal and the climate change agenda on track.

[Read UITP's Open Letter to the EU institutions in full](#)

For more information on UITP at the European level visited our [dedicated site](#).

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ABOUT UITP EUROPE

UITP is the international association representing public transport stakeholders. In the European Union, UITP brings together more than 450 urban, suburban and regional public transport operators and authorities from all Member States. We represent the perspective of short distance passenger transport services by all sustainable modes: bus, regional and suburban rail, metro, light rail, tram and waterborne.

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