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PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

UITP Press Office

PRESS RELEASE

PUSHING PUBLIC TRANSPORT UP THE AGENDA: UITP CONCLUDES OUR ACTIONS AT COP26



BRUSSELS, 16 NOVEMBER 2021

What does it mean to make the case for sustainable urban mobility at the biggest global gathering determining the future of our planet?

When the world descended upon **COP26** (31 October-14 November) to make the important decisions necessary in **the ongoing fight against climate change**, UITP was there alongside them.

We know that public transport is not as high up the agenda of decision makers as it should be: therefore **our presence and participation in Glasgow was even more vital.**

Our time on the ground in Scotland **involved an agenda full of meetings, events, appearances, and interviews**, where in every gathering we advocated for **more public transport, more of the time.**

An agenda of advocacy...on the ground in Glasgow

Alongside our members, external stakeholders, and partners **we pushed for public transport to move further up the agenda** by conveying our messages throughout COP26, in person and through our large digital outreach.

Led by our Secretary General Mohamed Mezghani, the UITP COP delegation made the case **alongside many of our members, external stakeholders, and partners**, through participation in **events, panels, bilateral meetings and press interviews**, and meetings **with ministers, mayors, leaders of the supplying industry, representatives of international organisations and peers** from other professional associations.

Whether on the COP campus with our **members and the media, or alongside the World Health Organisation, or even aboard the HydroFLEX train**, we offered solutions to the ongoing crisis.

There's much to be said on the important role of public transport for better city living. **Public transport is about people, and it will be a people-focused future** that helps our planet.

That requires more attention from decision makers.

"As 70% of transport emissions take place in urban areas, it's extremely important for UITP, on behalf of the global public transport sector, to show how our industry offers many solutions to help mitigate climate change. Our time in Glasgow was very well spent, and those in decision-making roles must increase their focus on public transport. I remain optimistic that we can deliver this change to provide a better future for everyone."

Mohamed Mezghani
UITP Secretary General*

The future is public transport...the climate crisis depends on it

Our **active schedule, advocacy, and outreach**, was all the more impressive due the necessary Covid-19 restrictions, making **COP26 a unique climate gathering.**

As the world struggles with increasing temperatures, rising emissions, and the need to address climate change, **UITP knows our sector can play a major role for our future.**

As of now, only around 30% of national climate action plans include public transport. **Public transport is a major solution to the climate crisis** – therefore it should appear in all of them. The final agreement reached involves compromise for some sides. **It also does not include nearly enough focus on sustainable active mobility.**

UITP leaves Glasgow **full of optimism for our sector**, and with **a determination to continue putting focus on climate action with public transport.**

The future direction of our planet depends on it **#COP26 #TogetherForOurPlanet**

UITP at COP26

*Acting on behalf of Mohamed Mezghani SARL

FOR EDITORS



(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1800 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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