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PRESS RELEASE

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: UITP REACTS TO EFFICIENT AND GREEN MOBILITY PACKAGE



BRUSSELS, 15 DECEMBER 2021

UITP welcomes the European Commission's [Efficient and Green Mobility Package](#) presented on 14 December as a step in the right direction.

The package clearly recognises the importance of rail and urban public transport along with active mobility, which will effectively contribute to the European Green Deal objectives and tackle other urban mobility challenges such as congestion, air quality, social cohesion and accessibility.

The new Urban Mobility Framework is a milestone for our sector as it highlights and promotes public transport to an extent previously unseen.

UITP is pleased with the fact that public transport and active mobility are at the core of this Communication.

The Commission acknowledges the many benefits of our sector, which we have laid out in our [Public Transport Benefits campaign](#). The increased emphasis on urban modes in the new TEN-T guidelines is a very encouraging addition. 424 cities will now have to develop Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) with a guiding principle of modal shift to sustainable modes of transport.

While the Commission provides guidance to local authorities on what is required to improve urban mobility, it falls short on suggesting how cities can implement these policies on the ground and how this can be financed (beyond the contribution of European funding instruments).

On the EU level, beyond stricter requirements for SUMPs, the Commission's initiatives to promote public transport are mainly digitalisation and data related, such as the revision of the ITS Directive and the delegated act on MMTIS, as well as a new initiative on multimodal digital mobility services (MDMS) announced for 2022.

While digital tools can help facilitate the access to public transport, UITP and its members would like to reiterate that measures related to the allocation of urban space, the acceleration of public transport and a solid funding framework will make all the difference

"We welcome this Urban Mobility Framework as a first step towards a holistic approach by the Commission to the challenges we collectively face, with a focus not only on technological improvements but also a fundamental reprioritisation of our transport and mobility choices." said Minna Soininen, Chair of the UITP EU Committee.

"In the decade following the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenge the public transport sector faces is threefold: it needs to decarbonise, digitalise and grow its services simultaneously. All three areas of transformation require political support and additional investments that go beyond a mere continuation of what is available today. Simply perpetuating "business as usual", but greener and technology-oriented will not be sufficient." said Thomas Avanzata, Spokesperson of the UITP EU Committee.

UITP in Europe



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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