

PRESS RELEASE

UITP POLICY BOARD BRINGS TOGETHER 60 GLOBAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS MAJOR CONCERNS FACING PUBLIC TRANSPORT



**BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
15 DECEMBER 2022**

To best address the issues of note facing public transport, the UITP Policy Board gathered in Riyadh (22-23 November 2022) to exchange and discuss the best steps forward for the sector.

Bringing together 60 urban mobility leaders from across the globe, the Policy Board offered a platform to exchange and voice concerns and ambitions on the most pressing matters confronting public transport today.

Welcomed by UITP President Khalid ALHOGAIL, the Board brought together many of the leading names in global urban mobility to advance the sustainable agenda.

The UITP Policy Board is composed of UITP Executive Board members, chairs of each Division and Thematic Committees, the PresCom chair and national representatives according to the Bylaws.

Discussing the challenges of today, for the solutions of the future...

Public transport must be resilient to best address the future steps – it must also undergo regular redefinition to provide for the very best passenger experience.

Collaboration is key to all of this, and public transport must be seen as a strategic priority on the agenda of decision makers across the globe.

Like many sectors, public transport faces the impact of international issues such as climate change, inflation, the energy crisis and staff shortages.

With public transport operators large energy consumers, already very advanced in their energy transition, public transport is facing the challenge of exploding energy prices.

It has responded by accelerating this very energy transition, but asks to be considered as a sector of strategic importance, which has proven its contribution to the cities resiliency during the global coronavirus pandemic.

As a result, public transport should receive the support required to face these soaring energy bills and the insurance that it is a major and strategic contribution to economic and social life.

“An essential part of city life, often a solution to many issues, public transport is no different than other sectors when it comes to the current challenges the world is facing. With inflation, the energy crisis, labour shortages, and the ongoing concerns over climate change, the issues that society is facing are also impacting public transport. By bringing so many international experts together, UITP is best placed to work with the leaders in our sector to consider what solutions may exist to these ongoing problems. The UITP Policy Board will lead that direction in considering ideas and solutions for public transport in the months ahead.”

Mohamed Mezghani
UITP Secretary General*

Members of the Policy Board also shared their own experience and strategies to best address the labour shortage within the workforce that many of them are facing, agreeing on the importance of profiling the sector as employer of choice while also developing employer branding.

The topic of fares and fare structure in many countries was also discussed, with a detailed exchange on the importance and the impact of the nine Euros ticket, and the perspective of a flat 49 euros monthly fare next year. Several members shared their experience on various trends related to fares and how this further calls for a new financially resilient model for the sector.

The UITP Policy Board, as a decision-making body of global leaders

With exclusive decision-making powers regarding the positions adopted by UITP in the area of public transport policy, the Policy Board determines the associations' Integrated Global Work Plan.

With so many international leaders making up the Board's composition, it is a truly unique gathering body to consider what public transport must do for the future.

Public transport is, and will remain, the backbone of urban mobility - but it will go beyond station-to-station, serving people door-to-door by embracing shared and on-demand mobility. Fulfilling this role means being available and accessible for all who use it.

More information on the Policy Board's important work and decisions will be unveiled in due course.

Working into 2023 and beyond, UITP will continue to address the serious issues for consideration with the very best minds in the sector.

[Learn more about the Governance of UITP](#)

FOR EDITORS

**Acting on behalf of Mohamed Mezghani SARL*

(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 **1900 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](#).

Questions? Quotes? Interview requests? Contact Scott Shepherd

UITP Senior Press and Media Manager

scott.shepherd@uitp.org

0032-2-663-66-73 / [@UITPpress](#)