



ADVANCING
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT



EUROPE

PRESS RELEASE

European public transport calls for strong support for the sector



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In an open letter addressed to the EU Institutions, EMTA, EPTO, Eurocities, IRU, Polis and UITP argue that the indispensable role of public transport in shaping sustainable urban mobility deserves special attention during the next legislative term.

Moving over 50 billion passengers annually, public transport stands as the most sustainable, efficient, and inclusive mass-transit option, providing citizens access to vital services such as jobs, education, care, and culture.

It forms the backbone of livable cities, fostering cleaner air, reduced congestion, and enhanced quality of life.

“There is hardly any other sector that has such a positive impact on European citizens' daily lives and contributes so significantly to the overarching environmental and societal goals of the European Union, as does the public transport sector. Together, we need to solve the structural and long-term issues our sector is confronted with, such as rising energy prices, staff shortage, and evolving mobility patterns. It is now more crucial than ever for the EU to continue supporting the development of local public transport in the upcoming EU legislative term.”

Thomas Avanzata, Spokesperson of the UITP EU Committee

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the public transport sector continues to deliver high-quality and safe services, with advancements towards zero-emission mobility and improved customer experiences.

However, the sector faces increased operating costs for new technologies and infrastructure, compounded by human resources shortages.

Looking ahead to the legislative term 2024-2029, the six associations stress the need for renewed focus and support for local public transport to achieve Europe's economic, social, and sustainability goals.

The letter proposes several initiatives, including:

- Recognition of Public Transport's strategic importance
- Publication of a European Declaration on Public Transport
- Enhanced coordination between European institutions and with local stakeholders
- Adequate funding for new technologies and infrastructure

[Read the joint open letter in full](#)

[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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