



Hans Rat Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport

Hans Rat has been the Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) since 19 June 1998, having his contract renewed for a third term in 2006.

Significant achievements for UITP under Mr Rat's direction so far include:

- UITP's expansion onto the global marketplace;
- a stronger representation of all mobility actors within the Association;
- a more decisive role in policy development; and
- the active involvement of UITP members in their

Association's activities.

In 1990 Mr Rat was appointed as Managing Director and a Board Member of NV Verenigd Streekvervoer Nederland, a holding company which owned public transport, taxi and coach companies. He was responsible for the group's marketing and information technology and he shared responsibilities on strategy and international affairs. He was also President of the Dutch Pedestrians Association (2000).

In 1975 he was appointed as Secretary to the Public Transport Division of KNVTO and in 1978 he became the Deputy General Secretary of that Association. He was responsible for the Association's contribution to public transport's policy in several ways, such as the introduction of a nation-wide tariff system for public transport which is still unique in the world.

In 1973 he joined the Royal Dutch Association of Transport Companies (KNVTO) as a junior staff member where he specialised in financial matters for companies operating in the following sectors: public transport, road, haulage, coaches and taxis.

Mr Rat's involvement in UITP dates back to before his role as Secretary General with previous offices including Chairman of the Commission on Transport Economics, Vice-President, and member of the European Union Committee.

Mr Rat was born in 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands in 1945. He graduated in International Economics at the University of Tilburg. He went on to be a trainee at the European Community Commission in Brussels for six months.

Mr Rat is married and has five children. He lives both in Brussels and in the old 'silver town' of Schoonhoven near Utrecht. His leisure pursuits include sailing his 80-year-old sailing barge, rowing and, in the past, running the New York Marathon, an event in which he took part several times. He is also a fervent user of public transport and bike.