



International Association of Public Transport
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Proposal for a **Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on public passenger transport services by rail and by road**

Statement of the EU-Committee after the discussions in the Council Meeting "Transport, Telecommunications and Energy", Brussels, 27 March 2006

The UITP EU-Committee, bringing together urban and regional public transport undertakings in the European Union, is actively following the various stages of discussion concerning the modernisation of the legislative framework relating to public service requirements in passenger transport.

As already stated in the past, the UITP EU-Committee is convinced of the need to establish, at European level, a common regulatory framework which will recognise, and at the same time clarify, the relative roles of the public service and entrepreneurial dimensions in the provision of public passenger transport.

Therefore the European public transport professionals welcome the ongoing discussions in the Council and its working group. They have taken good notice of the stated objective to reach a political agreement on this dossier during the next Council meeting on 8-9 June 2006.

In the light of the current Council discussions, the UITP EU-Committee members emphasize the need of creating and maintaining equal conditions for competition for all actors in the public transport sector in Europe. We understand that present negotiations relate to the possibility of extending the option for the direct award to an operator of all heavy rail services (long distance, regional and also suburban) (article 5.6).

In this regards, the UITP EU-Committee members are of the opinion that such provisions should be subject to conditions relating to the participation of operators, receiving direct awards, in markets open to competitive tendering.

Therefore we urge the Council to agree on adequate conditions in order to ensure a level playing field.