

## MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

# The International Association of Public Transport (UITP): Connecting the world of Public Transport

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) was founded back in 1885 by Belgium's King Leopold II, who wanted to make his country a leader in the tramway sector and to provide a stimulus for its steel industry.

Today, UITP is the global organisation for public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, scientific institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. It is a platform for worldwide co-operation and the sharing of know-how between its 3,100 members from some 90 countries.

UITP has its Main Office (Secretariat-General) in Brussels and 10 Regional and Liaison Offices worldwide.

UITP's Main Office also hosts the European Union Committee's secretariat, EuroTeam. The "EU Committee" is an autonomous committee which was created in 1965 under the constant influence of community law over UITP's European members, in order to represent the interests of public transport with the Community institutions.

The Secretary General of UITP is **Hans Rat** and the president is **Alain Flausch** (CEO of the Société des Transports Intercommunaux de Bruxelles, STIB). The President of UITP is elected every two years during the World Congress by the General Assembly.

UITP's prime mission is to be:

- the network of all mobility actors
- the catalyst for new business opportunities
- the global centre of knowledge and know-how
- the advocate of public transport and sustainable mobility
- the promoter of innovations and forward-looking solutions

This mission translates into some crucial themes:

- support economic growth
- respect the environment and foster sustainable development
- reduce congestion in urban areas
- encourage social inclusion

To make its vision reality, UITP has devised a strategy for the public transport sector structured around 5 axes:

- Place customer needs and lifestyle at the core of planning, funding and delivering high-quality mobility services.
- Integrate urban policies to optimize the benefits of public transport and enable citizens to enjoy a pleasant urban life.
- Create a business and regulatory framework allowing public transport to thrive and to be attractive to customers, to investors and to the workforce.
- To strengthen the financial robustness of the sector and reducing its dependency on public money by diversifying revenue and funding sources and increasing its patronage and efficiency.
- To actively influence citizens' mobility behaviour with measures and policies that further encourage the use of public transport.



International Association of Public Transport  
Union Internationale des Transports Publics  
Internationaler Verband für öffentliches Verkehrswesen  
Unión Internacional de Transporte Público

To disseminate its messages UITP produces several publications and promotes events and activities:

- Over 15 new publications are written every year (including the magazine *Public Transport International* published 6 times a year in 5 languages)
- About 30 events (including conferences, workshops and seminars) are organized yearly around the world.
- A World Congress and Exhibition is held every two years. The 59<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in Dubai in April 2011.

For more information, visit [www.uitp.org](http://www.uitp.org) or contact UITP's Communications & Publications Department: **Sylvie Cappaert-Blondelle** (Tel: +32 2 661 31 91; Fax: +32 2 6601072; [sylvie.cappaert@uitp.org](mailto:sylvie.cappaert@uitp.org)) or **Sarah D'Angelo** (Tel: +32 2 6636639; Fax: +32 2 6736100; [sarah.dangelo@uitp.org](mailto:sarah.dangelo@uitp.org))