



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UITP is disappointed with the vote of the European Parliament from 6 July 2010 on passenger rights in bus and coach transport**

Today's vote of the European Parliament in second reading on passenger rights in bus and coach transport has not taken into account the progress made in the recent negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council.

In particular the latest compromise proposal put forward by the Council had moved in many points towards the Parliament and offered a pragmatic approach, representing a realistic balance between the rights of passengers and what can be delivered by operators and authorities in urban suburban and regional areas.

Tony Depledge, President of the UITP EU Committee:

"After the TRAN vote on 1 June a lot of energy went into negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council. Our impression was that the positions of both institutions have come closer together on many points. The proposed last compromise and in particular the significant extension of basic rights has been thoroughly discussed within UITP. Uncertainties about the practicability of those provisions remain but for the sake of finding a compromise, UITP members chose not to oppose them. Now after the vote of the European parliament, everything is open again. "

"Customer focus is an essential element for the development of high quality public transport. However, rights for bus and coach passengers cannot be developed at a European level without reference to the practicalities of operating public transport services, the financial effects on public authorities, operators and passengers and the need for local services to match local needs and resources." recalled Tony Depledge

UITP remains at the disposal of the European parliament and of the Council to share its professional knowledge within the context of the forthcoming negotiations in the conciliation procedure on the proposed regulation for passenger rights in road transport.

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**Note to editors**

- **UITP** (International Association of Public Transport) is the international network 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 cooperation, business development and the sharing of know-how between its 3,200 members from 90 countries. UITP is the global advocate for public transport and sustainable mobility, and the promoter of innovations in the sector.
- The **EU Committee** of UITP was established in 1965. The objective of the EU Committee and its secretariat EuroTeam is to represent the common interests of public transport undertakings at EU level. It monitors legislation and provides members with information regarding EU policy developments, prepares EU Committee position papers, and assists and advises members concerning all aspects of European policies related to the public transport sector.

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