

PRESS RELEASE

UITP concerned about proposed modifications to the EU regulation on public service obligations in the transport sector

Brussels, 8 March 2013

While fully supporting the European political objective to open the domestic rail passenger market to competition, members of UITP are worried by the current legislative initiatives that appear to lead towards the dismantling of the carefully constructed elements of Regulation 1370/2007.

During the first meeting of the UITP EU Committee after the publication of the Fourth railway package, European public transport authorities and operators discussed the proposals. For public transport professionals, legal certainty for the award of public service contracts is a key requirement if undertakings are to be able to contribute to the continued development of urban public transport in Europe.

Many operators and organising authorities in Europe are therefore concerned by the different ongoing initiatives from the European Commission to reopen and deeply modify Regulation (EC) 1370/2007 even before it is fully applicable:

- The proposal for a modification of the enabling regulation¹ opens the way to a complete dismantling of Regulation (EC) 1370/2007.
- The proposal of market opening of domestic rail passenger transport in the framework of the 4th railway package goes far beyond what is necessary to reach the domestic rail market opening objective and makes significant changes to Regulation (EC) 1370/2007.

The modernisation of the European legal framework for public transport has been a lengthy and difficult process that eventually led to the adoption of Regulation (EC) 1370 in October 2007. This regulation came into force on 3 December 2009 and provides for a transition period up to 3 December 2019.

UITP considers that tendering is a potentially powerful instrument for creating competitive market structures and therefore supports the opening of the domestic rail passenger market to competition as long as tendering is complemented by the possibility of direct award in a few specific circumstances.



Geneva 2013

What are the expected benefits/drawbacks of these modifications? Will they counterbalance the lack of legal security that the PT sector will face again? These questions and more will be tackled at the European Union session (29 May) at the UITP World Congress and Exhibition in Geneva, 26-30 May 2013. www.uitpgeneva2013.org

¹ Proposal for a Council regulation amending Council regulation (EC) n°994/98 and Regulation (EC) 1370/2007 – Com(2012) 730 final.



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

Note to Editors

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) 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 **3,400** members from **92** countries. UITP is the global advocate of public transport and sustainable mobility, and the promoter of innovations in the sector. Visit our website www.uitp.org

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