



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOURTH RAILWAY PACKAGE: UITP, EPTO AND EMTA CLARIFY THEIR POSITION BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE TRIALOGUE NEGOTIATIONS

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**UITP (International Association of Public Transport), EMTA (European Metropolitan Transport Authorities) and EPTO (European Passenger Transport Operators) have made clear their position on the political pillar of the 4<sup>th</sup> railway package ahead of triologue negotiations.**

On 8 October 2015, the European Council agreed on a general approach regarding the opening of the rail market and governance proposals (market pillar). Before the beginning of the triologue negotiations **this week between the European Parliament, Council and Commission**, the three major public transport associations have agreed on a common position.

The three associations welcome the recent progress achieved on the political pillar as they have always opposed a potential unbundling of the package.

Regarding the market opening proposal, the associations **insist on the importance of limiting the revision of Regulation 1370/2007 to the changes necessary to open domestic rail markets** to competition without affecting bus, tram and metro services.

**UITP, EPTO and EMTA urge the triologue negotiators to reduce the implementation timeframe currently proposed** considering that it does not provide sufficient legal security and could jeopardise the efficiency of the rail market opening. **The addition of numerous possibilities to directly award contracts is also of major concern for the three associations**, especially the very broad exemptions that involve the use of a discretionary power likely to lead to divergent interpretations and never-ending complaints.

Regarding the governance proposal, UITP, EPTO and EMTA recall their strong support to the bottom-up approach when it comes to the development of an interoperable and through-ticketing and information system. The three associations furthermore support the Council's flexible approach which allows Member States to require the set-up of information and integrated ticketing schemes either directly by railway undertakings or by authorities duly empowered to do so.

“UITP is very much looking forward to a successful outcome of the political pillar of the 4th Railway Package as long as the revision process is strictly limited to the opening of the domestic rail passenger market, without any impact on urban and local public

transport for which the legal framework is already established by Regulation 1370/2007," said **Nicolas Blain**, President of the UITP EU Committee.

**Wolfgang Schroll**, President of EMTA, specified: "In order to facilitate an agreement on the market pillar in the Council, certain modifications such as the introduction of very detailed and compulsory public transport plans or the revision of the definition of a 'competent local authority' should be avoided as these changes will lead to unbalance and uncertainty instead of fostering the objective to open the domestic rail market to competition."

**Piers Marlow**, President of EPTO, commented: "Citizens in Europe deserve to have the most customer-oriented, efficient, innovative and best quality mobility solutions offering the highest value. The public should be able to have a real choice between concepts and providers, this can only be achieved by tendering. Public and Citizens deserve it as quick as possible".

## NOTE TO EDITORS

**The International Association of Public Transport (UITP)** is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,300 member companies giving access to 14,000 contacts from 92 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website [www.uitp.org](http://www.uitp.org). Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

**Contact:** Thomas Avanzata, UITP Europe Director, [thomas.avanzata@uitp.org](mailto:thomas.avanzata@uitp.org)  
Andrew Canning, Press & Media Manager: [andrew.canning@uitp.org](mailto:andrew.canning@uitp.org)

**European Metropolitan Transport Authorities (EMTA)** is a platform for collaboration and policy exchange of 26 public transport authorities in metropolitan areas and larger cities (including a partner institution in Montreal) transport planning, infrastructure funding and financing and commissioning public transport services. Members have in common the award of public service contracts in (sub-)urban areas and share knowledge, exchange experiences and identify best practices that help to improve the quality of integrated transport services for their users. Visit our website [www.emta.com](http://www.emta.com)

Contact: Ruud van der Ploeg - Secretary-general, email: [ruud.vanderploeg@emta.com](mailto:ruud.vanderploeg@emta.com)  
Mobile: +31 6 55 890 365

EPTO is the association of the **European Passenger Transport Operators**, whose members are the 8 largest public transport Groups in Europe. EPTO promotes the development of a competitive market structure for the supply of public transport services and supports the opening of the passenger transport markets in Europe. For more information see <http://www.epto.net>

**Contact:** Jan M. Möllmann - Secretary General, Phone: +32-477-909126, Mobile: +49-151-42635679, Fax : +49-3212-6655626, Email: [jan.moellmann@epto.net](mailto:jan.moellmann@epto.net)