PRESS RELEASE

COMMISSION’S PROPOSAL OF A REVISED CLEAN VEHICLES DIRECTIVE PLACES BURDEN ON CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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Mandatory procurement targets for alternatively fuelled and electric vehicles proposed by the Commission are most stringent for the bus segment.

This is considered to be incomprehensible taking into account the low level of technological maturity, the costs and the general positive contribution public transport already makes to climate protection.

As part of the Commission’s second mobility package, a proposal to revise the Clean Vehicles Directive 2009/33/EU was published yesterday (COM(2017) 653 final).

With the aim to reduce CO2 and pollutant emissions from transport through public procurement, the Commission defines the term “clean vehicle” and for the first time sets mandatory procurement targets for such vehicles at Member State level: up to 50 per cent of the buses purchased, leased or rented in 2025 and up to 75 per cent in 2030 have to be “clean”. Only electric (including plug-in hybrids), hydrogen and natural gas buses qualify as “clean bus”.

In comparison, the quota for clean trucks are up to 10 per cent (2025) and 15 per cent (2030), and for clean light duty vehicles up to 35 per cent in both 2025 and 2030.

“Our sector is committed to renewing its bus fleets and using ever cleaner technologies. But this proposal places the highest burden on public transport, which is already a clean, energy-efficient and therefore climate-friendly mode of transport. Already today, public transport buses emit less CO2 and pollutant emissions per passenger than light duty vehicles and – contrary to many passenger cars – buses comply with the emission limits set in the EURO standards. The Directive remains silent about the costs to our sector and about who should finance these investments, and does not take into account the relatively low technological maturity of alternatively fuelled and electric buses,” says Thomas Avanzata, Director of UITP’s EU Department.
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 1,500 member companies giving access to 16,000 contacts from 96 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. Follow us on Twitter: @UITPpress

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