



## PRESS RELEASE

### MAJOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS DECLARE OPPOSITION TO POTENTIAL SPLITTING OF 4<sup>th</sup> RAILWAY PACKAGE

BRUSSELS, 8 JANUARY 2015

With discussions of the technical and market pillars of the Fourth Railway Package beginning again under the Latvian Presidency of the European Council, UITP (International Association of Public Transport), EMTA (European Metropolitan Transport Authorities) and EPTO (European Passenger Transport Operators) have declared their opposition to any potential splitting of the Package.

With the re-opening of discussions of the Package under the new Latvian Presidency, the three associations **express their concern about potential priority given in Council discussions to the technical pillar to the detriment of the market pillar.** The expected benefits from the future adoption of the technical pillar are only likely to be realised in a context of progressive market opening hence why the associations defend a 'package approach' whereby both pillars are taken forward jointly.

For the three associations, the key to finding an agreement on the market pillar is to stick to more limited ambitions. The associations have consistently called for the revision of regulation 1370/2007 to be strictly limited to the minimum changes necessary to open domestic passenger rail markets to competition without impacting urban and local public transport, for which the current regulation already provides a progressive and balanced market opening.

In order to facilitate an agreement on the market pillar in the Council certain modifications such as the introduction of compulsory public transport plans or the revision of the definition of a 'competent local authority' could be avoided.

For UITP, EPTO and EMTA the opening of the passenger rail market should be carried out within a reasonable timeframe. It should provide **legal security** as a number one priority but it must be effective if we want to stop further stagnation in the rail sector, **attract the required investments, remove impediments** for new entrants, **meet the rapidly evolving needs** of passengers and **provide better value for the public money spent.** This progressive market-opening process must establish a general principle of competitive award for public service contracts in rail and allow for the possibility of retaining direct awarding in certain limited and strictly defined cases.

#### 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. In Europe, UITP brings together more than 400 urban, suburban and regional public transport operators and authorities from all member states. Visit our website [www.uitp.org](http://www.uitp.org). Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

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**European Metropolitan Transport Authorities** (EMTA) is a forum for collaboration and exchange of information and practice experience among 25 public transport authorities from 16 EU-countries that carry out contracting, planning and integrating public transport services as key remit. EMTA fosters sustainable innovation of transport services and mobility solutions in its member cities by sharing knowledge, increase collaboration with peer stakeholders and

contribute to the development of European framework rules for transport, mobility and related infrastructure schemes. Visit our website [www.emta.com](http://www.emta.com)

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EPTO is the association of the **European Passenger Transport Operators**, whose members are the 9 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 [www.epto.net](http://www.epto.net)

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