

Brussels, 7 September 2017

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 14 September, you are going to vote on the IMCO report related to the European Accessibility Act (EAA). Considering the importance of the text, UITP would like to reiterate the views and recommendations of the public transport sector.

Public transport operators and competent authorities welcome the Commission's efforts to support improved accessibility and we believe that EU legislation can help further improve the accessibility of public transport networks. The EAA can be an important lever to complement the large investments that public transport operators and competent authorities are doing to **ensure all passengers can travel safely, easily and spontaneously**. However, achieving completely accessible transport networks across the EU **requires a thorough understanding of local needs** to ensure finite levels of investment are directed to where they are most useful.

In this context, UITP would like to highlight that considerable efforts have been made in the past years to make public transport systems more accessible in many cities. Practical examples can be found on a [webpage](#) on accessibility of public transport, which UITP is supporting.

The achieved and planned improvements should be taken into account in the current discussions on the EAA. While further investments have to be made, unrealistic requirements will not help either the sector or public transport passengers if they lead to a bad allocation of scarce resources.

In particular, we invite you to consider carefully the following elements:

- In the absence of a detailed impact assessment, a mandatory inclusion of the built environment would simply not be achievable. UITP therefore **supports the IMCO proposal for EU accessibility requirements on refurbished or new stations**. This is consistent with other EU transport legislation.
- The directive **should apply to products and services placed on the Union market after the date of application**, as explicitly stated in the IMCO report. Furthermore, **the lifetime of self-service terminals** should be taken into account.



- the European Accessibility Act should **apply to transport products and services only when** the accessibility requirements are **not already covered** in existing European sectorial legislation.

UITP is keen for the Act to be a useful and effective tool working for accessibility but **to reach the goal of accessibility, it must be realistic if it is to be properly implemented.**

We are confident that, on 14 September, you will adopt a legislative text that will allow for future accessible, reliable and safe public transport in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Avanzata
UITP Europe Director

