

Public Transport Sector's Recommendations to the Cypriot Presidency of the EU Council

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Cyprus has a unique opportunity to address the key challenges facing the public transport sector – as it starts its Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

UITP, the International Association of Public Transport, representing local passenger public transport stakeholders, is pleased to see that the Presidency's programme addresses several priorities that lie at the very heart of UITP members' work and concerns, from passenger rights to clean corporate fleets.

These are welcome and timely discussions for a sector that keeps passengers moving every day and help the sector thrive as a defining symbol of a modern, sustainable Europe.

UITP calls on the Cypriot Presidency to ensure clarity for the sector across its priorities:

- **Advance negotiations on EU funding for public transport:** Adequate and predictable funding is crucial for delivering the EU's climate, social, and competitiveness goals. UITP urges the Cypriot Presidency to push negotiations that secure robust funding through the new MFF. The establishment of a permanent EU Transport Investment Fund would ensure long-term, high-impact financing for decarbonisation projects, prioritising urban, regional, cross-border, and rural passenger transport assets, enabling operators and authorities to plan investments with confidence.
- **Ensure legislative clarity:** Clear, coherent rules are essential, particularly in the context of the EU's ambition to accelerate the decarbonisation of corporate fleets and modify public procurement rules. New legislation must complement existing EU rules, avoid duplication, and minimise administrative burdens.

- **Strengthen passenger rights:** Passenger protection is a priority, but unclear or unrealistic rules risk confusion, potentially making public transport less attractive and reducing its competitiveness compared with private modes of transport. UITP calls for practical, enforceable legislation that considers local contexts, improves travel experience, builds trust in public transport, and supports digital and operational innovation.

Address regional inequalities: UITP welcomes attention to peripheral regions where transport access is limited and transport poverty persists. EU funding, including the Connecting Europe Facility, should support not only high-speed connections but also strong local and regional networks, that serve all communities daily.

"Local public transport carries very large numbers of passengers every day, supports efficient land use, and delivers significant energy savings. In short, it is where European mobility begins and where it must remain a priority."

Alberto Alonso Poza, Chair of the UITP EU Committee

UITP stands ready to work closely with the Cypriot Presidency throughout its mandate to help translate these priorities into clear, effective and workable outcomes for public transport across Europe.

Link: <https://www UITP.org/news/uitps-recommendations-to-the-cypriot-presidency-of-the-eu-council/>

UITP in Europe



ABOUT UITP EUROPE

UITP is the international association representing public transport stakeholders. In the European Union, UITP brings together more than 500 urban, suburban, and regional public transport operators, and authorities from all Member States. We represent the perspective of short distance passenger transport services by all sustainable modes: bus, regional and suburban rail, metro, light rail, tram and waterborne.

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