

PRESS RELEASE

Social Partners Call to Prioritise Local Public Transport in the next MFF 2028–2034



BRUSSELS, 19 March 2026

The European Social Partners in the Urban Public Transport sector – including UITP and ETF - representing operators and workers across all EU Member States, welcome the European Commission's commitment to modernise the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034.

However, they stress that this ambition must be matched by a clear prioritisation of local public transport.

“With nearly 60 billion passenger journeys each year and growing demand, public transport is essential to keeping our cities moving. Every euro invested generates 4 euros in return, supporting around 2 million local jobs across Europe and boosting the competitiveness and resilience of our cities and regions, all while driving a green and just transition.”

Julieta De Micheo Carrillo De Albornoz, Institutional Affairs & ESG Director at EMT Madrid, Chair of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue & Business Management & Human Resources Committee at UITP.

Despite its strategic importance, urban, suburban and regional mobility remain insufficiently recognised in current proposals. The European Social Partners therefore call for dedicated funding envelopes across key EU instruments, including the National and Regional Partnership Plans, the European Competitiveness Fund, and the Connecting Europe Facility.

“Rising energy costs, requirements to decarbonise fleets and infrastructure, and increasing passenger numbers are putting a strain on public transport budgets. Without public transport, our cities would grind to a halt. Without further investment, the ability for our public transport systems to provide sustainable mobility to millions of Europeans will be jeopardised.”

Andreas Schackert, Federal Working Group Leader for Trains and Buses in the United Services Union (ver.di) Germany and vice-chair of the European Social Dialogue Working Group for UPT.

Read the joint open letter in full



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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ABOUT ETF

The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) represents over 5 million transport workers from more than 200 transport unions and 41 European countries. ETF works to promote fair transport practices and improve the working conditions of transport workers across Europe.

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