

PRESS RELEASE

Public Transport should be part of European response to energy crisis



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UITP, the International Association of Public Transport, is calling on the European institutions to place public transport at the centre of Europe's response to the ongoing energy crisis and its long-term economic strategy.

Every day, public transport enables millions of Europeans to access jobs and essential services, sustaining economic activity while offering an affordable alternative to private cars. By reducing fuel dependency and protecting household budgets, it continues to deliver reliable mobility, even in times of crisis.

As reducing fuel consumption is key to meeting the on-going energy shortage, sustainable and energy-efficient mobility options such as public transport must be part of Europe's response to the current situation.

Despite its central role in the daily lives of European residents, the sector is under increasing financial pressure. Rising operational costs, while ticket prices remain stable as they are set for the medium to long term, means that transport authorities and operators are absorbing growing short-term pressures.

Without targeted support, this could lead to service cuts, fare increases, and delayed investments, undermining economic activity, social inclusion, and climate goals, while pushing residents towards increased car dependency, which translates into increased fuel consumption.

UITP therefore urges EU decision-makers to recognise public transport as a strategic partner and to take action accordingly:

1. Short-term crisis response: Help public transport companies meet the rising operational costs; promote the use of public transport and recommend increasing the offer in the Member States.
2. Security and stability: Ensure reliable and affordable energy supply for public transport operators even during potential shortages in order to guarantee operational continuity.
3. Structural transition for a shift to public transport: Enable long-term funding and policy frameworks to strengthen the public transport sector in Europe.

UITP's Activities in Europe



ABOUT UITP IN 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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