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## **Buses and coaches - people's business**

### **Joint European Bus and Coach Industry Declaration**

The European people expect and deserve collective mobility and travel services that meet their increasing expectations: greener, safer, increasingly comfortable, affordable and connected door-to-door services, inside European cities, in rural areas and across borders.

With more than 300 000 companies, mostly small and medium sized enterprises, directly employing 2 million people, the bus and coach industry is at the heart of the European mobility and travel system. It is the backbone of efficient collective short and long distance mobility, environmentally friendly, energy efficient and the first alternative to individual mobility.

The road passenger transport industry is above all a people's business: delivered by people to people, connecting people - Europeans and visitors with mobility, leisure, tourism and cultural needs. Yet, the regulatory framework governing the coach sector has consistently failed to recognise this fundamental element over the last two decades.

A fundamental change of approach is needed. The recent publication by the European Commission of its Mobility Package offers a unique opportunity for European lawmakers and national governments to place the interests of people at the forefront of the policy agenda. Guaranteeing the independent treatment of the sector, recognising its unique characteristics, needs and constraints through tailor-made, sector specific rules, will significantly contribute to removing the barriers preventing the sector from serving people efficiently.

Several recent national and local initiatives, such as on the posting of drivers, on VAT compliance rules or on access restrictions to cities have created an environment that strongly discourages European coach entrepreneurs from offering international transport services. This limits the free movement of people within the EU and ultimately, prevents coach entrepreneurs from fulfilling their vocation of providing high quality mobility services to the people of Europe.

Therefore, the united European bus and coach sector, its private and public partners, calls on EU lawmakers and the twenty-eight national governments of the EU Member States to:

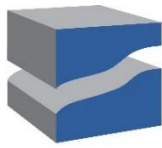
Put the interests of people at the centre of European transport and travel policy, by granting bus and coach operators and drivers the necessary tools to provide high quality mobility and travel services.

Put an end to the proliferation of bureaucracy across the EU and its Member States, and harmonise and reduce the administrative burden imposed on European SMEs.

Work towards a fiscal level playing field between the different modes of collective transport to avoid distortions of competition and ensure an optimal balance of all modes.

Only with this change of approach and mind-set – by putting people first - will the EU remain true to its founding principles of freedom of movement and freedom to provide services and bus and coach operators and drivers be able to fulfil their vocation of serving the European people.

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**Sveriges Bussföretag**

Ett förbund inom **TRANSPORTFÖRETAGEN**



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