



Taxis - for a level playing field

to support innovation and ensure quality of service to customers, good working conditions and the competitiveness of the public transport chain anytime, anywhere

Adopted on 19 November 2014

European Social Partners, IRU and ETF, representing the taxis and hire cars with driver sector,

- ***Committed to support the organised taxi industry's efforts to constantly improve the quality***, attractiveness, safety, working conditions, environmental-friendliness and accessibility of its services, including by further increasing the professionalism of its managers and drivers, and by intensifying the exchange of best practices among all taxi professionals in order to benefit customers;
- ***Sharing the common objective to promote high quality and safe services to customers by making use of the latest technology related to smartphone applications for taxis, in full compliance with the legislative and regulatory framework;***
- ***Emphasising that as a public transport service, taxis are subject to numerous regulatory obligations*** that guarantee the safety, security, service quality and rights of customers, as well as decent working conditions of taxi drivers;
- ***Emphasising the sheer fact that over recent years it was the regulated taxi and hire cars with driver business which has been leading smartphone applications implementation***, by pioneering the implementation of new digital technologies and business models, thus contributing to seamless citizens door-to-door mobility and the efficiency and competitiveness of the public mobility chain, offering timely available service for all, and empowering the public transport chain; and
- ***Drawing the attention of international, European, national and local policy decision-makers to the fact that unfair competition on intra-city mobility markets, in particular from self-proclaimed "ride-sharing" for-reward transport platforms***, illegally offering their "ride-selling" services precisely on the taxi and hire cars with driver market, is ultimately detrimental for the interests of workers, citizens and visitors, including citizens with disabilities, whilst at the same time avoiding paying taxes and social security, thus destroying the fair and efficient functioning of entire segments of the public transport market, with potentially disastrous consequences on mobility, passenger safety, legal jobs, decent work and social conditions.

Appeal to European institutions and relevant national and local competent authorities to:

- ***Recognise taxis and hire cars with driver as a valuable and necessary element of the collective public transport chain***, and consider the role of taxis in any social or mobility policy proposals, collective transport funding, research and, in particular, urban and rural mobility planning;
- ***Ensure a level legislative playing field (under the principle "same business, same social, fiscal and environmental rules") for all mobility service providers, including self-proclaimed "ride-sharing" for-reward transport platforms***, offering their services on the urban mobility and taxi market;

- **Ensure that decisions taken by competent authorities or courts in relation to self-proclaimed “ride-sharing” for-reward transport platforms are fully implemented and enforced and that existing taxi legislation and regulations, including on working conditions, are respected**, to guarantee the rights, safety and security of citizens.

Request the European Commission to consider, as a first step, proposing an access to the profession regime for taxis and hire cars with driver in Europe, taking into account its specific operational and service environment;

Invite other mobility stakeholders and customer organisations, including organisations representing the interests of travellers with disabilities, to join social partners’ efforts, to guarantee a level playing field for all; and

Recommend to business partners and travel booking platforms from the mobility, hospitality, travel and tourism business to recommend the use or make use, for their customers, of legal and law abiding taxi companies and apps.

The IRU, ETF and the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) are determined to strengthen their cooperation and alert all concerned mobility actors with regards to the challenges represented by the **self-proclaimed “ride-sharing” for-reward transport platforms** as part of a joint global initiative.

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