



Her Excellency Katalin Molnár
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By email

BR1060938/VCO

Brussels, 7 November 2024

EU Driving Licence: Removing barriers to the profession and EU public mobility

Dear Ambassador,

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the European Passenger Transport Operators (EPTO) ask you to support solutions proposed by the European Parliament in the revision of the EU Driving Licence Directive to address issues currently threatening the future of European collective transport by bus and coach.

Collective EU passenger transport under threat

Professional bus and coach driver shortages have reached alarming levels with over 105,000 positions currently unfilled in Europe. With only 3% of drivers being under 25 years old and an average age of 50, the shortage of drivers in the EU is expected to surpass 275,000 unfilled positions by 2028. Driver shortages are threatening the stability of European collective passenger transport and the future of European mobility, with numerous public transport routes by bus and coach expected to be discontinued as a direct result.

Call for action

To address the growing driver shortage and ensure attractiveness of the sector, minimum age rules for professional bus drivers should be adapted. To this end, the version of Article 23 – paragraph 1 set out in the European Parliament's position responds well to the sector's needs. For your ease of reference, this reads as follows:

In Article 5, paragraph 3, point a is replaced by following:

(a) from the age of 21:

(i) a vehicle in driving licence categories D and D + E and a vehicle in driving licence categories D1 and D1 + E provided that they hold a CPC as referred to in Article 6(2).

Any Member State may authorise drivers of vehicles in driving licence categories D1 and D1 + E to drive such vehicles within its territory from the age of 18, provided that they hold a CPC as referred to in Article 6(1).

Any Member State may lower the minimum age for categories D and D+E for professional bus and coach drivers to:

- 19 years on their territory, provided that drivers have undergone a full professional training and are holders of CPC in accordance with Article 6(1), of Directive (EU) 2022/2561;

- 18 years on their territory, provided that drivers have undergone a full professional training and are holders of CPC in accordance with Article 6(1), of Directive (EU) 2022/2561, and drive such vehicles without passengers or on lines of less than 50 km with passengers.'

We kindly ask you to be open to the position of the Parliament, as set in their negotiation mandate and come to a version that responds to our sector's realities and needs. Thank you for your attention and dedication to this important cause.

Sincerely,



Raluca Marian

Director EU Advocacy and
General Delegate of IRU to
the EU

Daniel Adamka

President of EPTO

Thomas Avanzata

Spokesperson of the EU
Committee
International Association of
Public Transport, UITP

[IRU](#) is the voice of more than 900,000 road transport companies in the EU, including truck, bus, coach and taxi companies, which operate about 35 million vehicles. IRU is the official social partner recognised by the European Commission to engage in negotiations with trade unions on behalf of road transport employers in the EU. In total, the road transport sector employs over 5 million people.

[EPTO](#), the association of European Passenger Transport Operators, represents major private sector public transport operators in Europe who have the majority of their business awarded by open tendering and contracts. EPTO is committed to the development of the transport market through liberalisation of bus, rail and other similar transport modes.

[UITP](#) (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) is the International Association of Public Transport and a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility. Established in 1885, with more than 135 years of history, it is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Across the globe and every day, people rely on public transport to bring them to school, to work, to sports clubs and cafés. In using public transport millions travel more sustainably, safer and actively while bringing economic benefit to their community. UITP supports the entire sector to ultimately guarantee that public transport and its workers continue to bring cities to life. UITP has over 1,900 members, in more than 100 countries, with 13 offices across the globe.