



# “Did you know?”

Facts and Figures on Bus and  
Coach Transport in Europe

# Did you know...

- That buses and coaches are crucial for peoples' mobility?
- That buses and coaches are major European job providers?
- That buses and coaches are major contributors to the economy and tourism?
- That buses and coaches are crucial for social cohesion?
- That buses and coaches are safety champions?
- That travelling by bus and coach reduces congestion?
- That buses and coaches are environmental champions?
- That noxious emissions from buses and coaches have been reduced by up to 98% since 1990?
- That bus and coach drivers are the elite of the driving profession?
- That 25 modern buses and coaches make no more noise than one built in 1980?
- That 90% of travellers by coach are satisfied with their trip?

# Did you know...

that buses and coaches are the key to sustainable mobility?

Every year, buses and coaches in Europe bring passengers safe and sound to their intended destinations with the lowest impact on the environment.

Although the use of collective passenger transport is increasing, many people are still unaware of just how safe, environmentally friendly and quiet buses and coaches are.

Buses and coaches are key elements in the sustainable mobility chain, providing safe, socially inclusive and

environmentally friendly transport services to everyone. This publication aims to make European citizens and especially policy makers aware of the unparalleled benefits travelling by bus and coach offers to all of us.

## **Bus and coach for a smart way to travel!**



# Did you know...

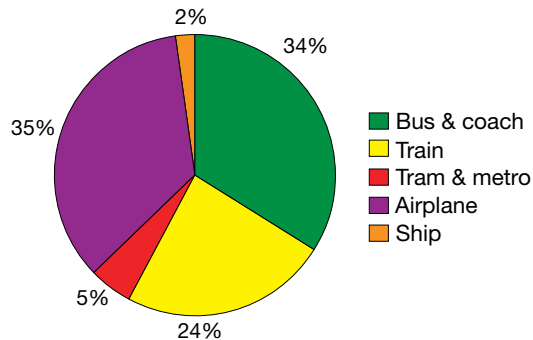
that buses and coaches are crucial for peoples' mobility?

Each year, individuals across Europe travel more than 700 billion kilometres by bus and coach, making it one of the largest commercial modes of passenger transport and the largest mode of passenger land transport apart from the private car.

Buses and coaches also provide more than 50% of European public transport services.

## **Bus and coach for a Europe on the move!**

**EU-27 modal split of collective passenger transport (passenger-kilometres)**



Source: EU Energy & Transport in Figures, Statistical Pocketbook, 2009

# Did you know...

that buses and coaches are major European job providers?

Bus and coach operators in Europe employ around two million drivers, technicians and administrative personnel.

In addition, one million employees provide vehicle components, sell, insure and inspect buses and coaches and a further 5 million jobs in Europe depend directly or indirectly on bus and coach operations, such as in the vehicle manufacturing, leisure and travel industries.

**Bus and coach for European employment!**



# Did you know...

that buses and coaches are major contributors to the economy and tourism?

Coach tourism turnover in Europe amounts to around 15 billion Euros per year. Moreover, tourists travelling by coach spend at least 40% more money at their destinations than any other tourists.

For cities and regions to realise the full potential of coach tourism, adequate parking facilities, pick-up and drop-off points along with suitable access to amenities are crucial. The introduction of entry taxes on visiting coaches entails a significant loss of tourism and related economic benefits.

**Bus and coach for a vibrant economy and tourism!**



# Did you know...

## that buses and coaches are crucial for social cohesion?

Buses and coaches provide affordable, reliable and flexible transport services to all, regardless of their financial means or where they live. For many citizens, especially students, workers, the elderly, people with disabilities and those with low incomes, bus and coach transport is their only lifeline to education, work, care, leisure and tourism.

Coach services are offered at a lower cost-per-passenger ratio than any other means of transport over distances between 500 and 1,000 kilometres.

**Bus and coach for high quality and affordable mobility for all!**

### **Buses and coaches are crucial for social cohesion: example of the UK market**

	<b>Regular bus and coach services</b>	<b>Train services</b>
Median users' age	40-49	30-39
Individuals with income less than EUR 25,000 per year	73%	49%
Passengers without a car	40%	22%

*Source: Passenger Transport by Coach in Europe, Steer Davies Gleave, on behalf of the European Commission, July 2009*



# Did you know...

that buses and coaches are safety champions?

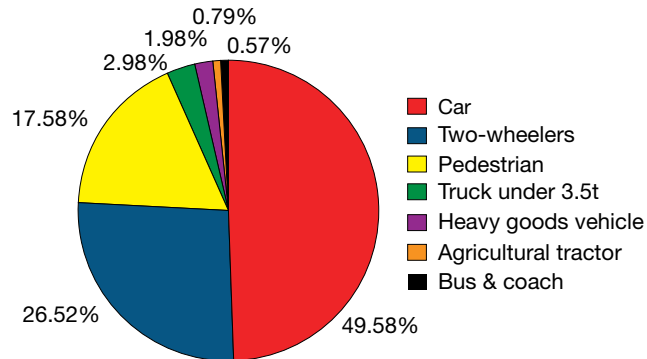
Buses and coaches are the safest of all road transport modes and equal the safety of trains, despite sharing infrastructure with other users and modes.

From 2007 to 2008, bus and coach passengers represented 0.57% of road fatalities in the European Union, which is even less than the 0.79% share attributed to agricultural tractors!

Despite this exemplary record, safety remains the top priority for bus and coach operators.

## **Bus and coach for safe travel!**

**Total fatalities by mode of road transport (EU-27)**



Source: CARE (EU road accident database), 2009



# Did you know...

that travelling by bus and coach reduces congestion?

Considering the average occupancy rate of coaches, buses and cars in Europe, one coach can replace up to 30 cars while taking up the road capacity of only three cars.

Much more can be achieved to reduce congestion if a spirit of partnership prevails, with governments, authorities, businesses and coach operators working together to implement pro-coach and pro-bus policies, such as priority lanes and schemes, parking and driver facilities, secure locations, suitable terminals and stops for scheduled services.

**Bus and coach for free flowing traffic!**



# Did you know...

that buses and coaches are environmental champions?

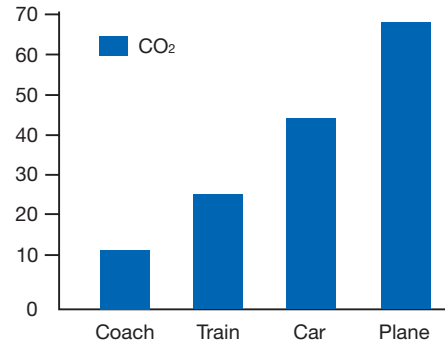
Buses and coaches are the cleanest and most carbon-efficient travel mode of all.

For each passenger transported over 100 kilometres, buses and coaches use half a litre of diesel fuel and emit half of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by trains.

In most European countries, around 10% of the bus and coach fleet is renewed every year, integrating the latest clean and efficient technology. Bus and coach operators are also willingly sending their drivers to “fuel saving” seminars and eco-driving courses to further improve their environmental performance.

## **Bus and coach for less CO<sub>2</sub>!**

**CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per passenger by mode from London to Blackpool (385 km)**



Source: Britain's Coaches: Partnership and Passengers, CPT, 2009

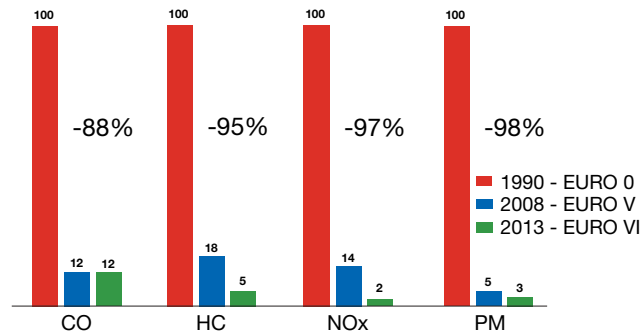
# Did you know...

that noxious emissions from buses and coaches have been reduced by up to 98% since 1990?

Thanks to the bus and coach industry's tremendous investment in new technology, pollutants dangerous to the health of European citizens – carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and particulates – have been significantly reduced by up to 98%!

## Bus and coach for a healthier environment!

### Noxious emissions reduction for heavy commercial vehicles



Source: EU Commission, 2008

# Did you know...

that bus and coach drivers are the elite of the driving profession?

Due to the very nature of their work and responsibilities, it is mandatory for the over one million bus and coach drivers in Europe to submit to a special medical examination and undergo extensive training to pass stringent driving and theory tests, in addition to those required to obtain a driving licence.

Mandatory life-long learning has long been a reality for bus and coach drivers. With specific training and recognised competence, driving buses and coaches professionally offers real career perspectives.

**Bus and coach for a professional service!**



# Did you know...

that 25 modern buses and coaches make no more noise than one built in 1980?

Technological innovations such as special insulation, the introduction of low rolling resistance tyres and other noise-control techniques applied at source have significantly reduced noise levels compared to 1980, making today's buses and coaches the quietest mode of collective passenger transport!

Further reductions can be achieved if, for example, infrastructure managers ensure the use of low rolling resistant surfaces on roads.

**Bus and coach for quieter mobility!**



Source: BDO

# Did you know...

that 90% of travellers by coach are satisfied with their trip?

Buses and coaches are the most flexible of all collective passenger transport modes. They can bring tens of thousands of people home after a football match or bring tourists to remote world-renowned locations.

Buses and coaches are available in the exact size and numbers needed for every occasion. It is therefore no mystery that industry surveys regularly indicate that 90% of all coach travellers are satisfied or very satisfied with their coach trip.

**Bus and coach for all travelling needs!**



# Did you know...

## that the IRU represents road transport globally?

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), founded in Geneva on 23 March 1948, has a local and global reach through its 180 Members in over 70 countries, including all 27 EU countries. The IRU represents the operators of trucks, buses, coaches and taxis, from large transport fleets to individual owner-operators.

The IRU has made sustainable development a constitutional obligation and subsequently developed a cost-effective 3 “i” strategy to achieve it.

**Innovation** – Develop ever more effective “at-source” technical measures & operating practices to reduce environmental impact.

**Incentives** – Encourage faster introduction by transport operators of best available technology and practices.

**Infrastructure** – Without free-flowing traffic, the above measures are useless. Adequate investment in new infrastructure and the fullest use of existing infrastructure are essential.

**To learn more about the IRU and its work, please visit [www.iru.org](http://www.iru.org)**

*Working together  
for a better future*



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