



“Did you know?”

Facts and Figures on
Taxi Transport in Europe

Did you know...

- That taxis are crucial for people's mobility?
- That taxis are major contributors to the economy?
- That taxis are crucial for social cohesion?
- That taxis have an excellent safety record?
- That travelling by taxi reduces congestion?
- That taxis help to reduce our negative impact on the environment?
- That 80% of travellers by taxi are highly satisfied with their trip?

Did you know...

that taxis contribute to sustainable mobility?

European travellers attach a high value to the reliability and predictability of travel conditions. Taxis and hire cars with drivers are perfectly suited to fulfil these expectations when used either for business, social or recreational purposes, as they offer 24-hour flexible and customer-oriented door-to-door services.

Taxis are comfortable, safe and easy to access and they offer a personalised, high-quality customer service. Taxis and hire cars with drivers can be hailed on the street or booked in advance. Taxi drivers can take you from and to the airport, to visit family and friends, help you with your weekly shopping or take your children to and from school.

Highly flexible taxi services, like other collective transport modes, play a key role in the sustainable mobility of people. They guarantee social cohesion and integration by providing people, including tourists, with safe, green and flexible mobility.

This publication aims to make European citizens and policy makers aware of the unparalleled benefits travelling by taxi or hire car with driver offers to all of us.

Taxis for an alternative way to travel!

Did you know...

that taxis are crucial for people's mobility?

There are more than one million taxis in Europe. They constitute an important share of the means of passenger movement in European cities and account for 5% of the European local public transport.

Taxis are perfectly capable of integrating seamlessly into urban mobility systems and public transport chains since taxis' inherent flexibility can compensate for public transport shortcomings, particularly at times when local buses or trains run infrequently or have stopped for the night, and in areas that are poorly served by other means of public transport.

Taxis for a Europe on the move!

"Did You Know?" - Taxis for sustainable mobility



Did you know... that taxis are major contributors to the economy?

More than one million people are employed in the European taxi industry. This is about 8% of all employment in the European transport sector.

Taxis for a strong economy!



Annual turnover of the taxi industry (2008)

Country / City	Annual turnover (in million EUR)
Germany	3 500
London	2 500
Ireland	1 500
The Netherlands	1 100
Finland	750
Stockholm	490

Source: IRU Member Associations

Did you know...

that taxis are crucial for social cohesion?

Taxis offer high quality services for all, including customers with disabilities and in sparsely populated areas, allowing everyone to participate fully in social life.

40% of households in Europe do not have their own car and 50% of elderly people do not have a car or cannot drive. These populations rely heavily on taxis when public transport doesn't cut it. In fact, taxi services are used three times more often by mobility-impaired people than by the rest of the population.

Taxis for mobility for all!



Did you know... that taxis have an excellent safety record?

Although they represent 10-20% of urban traffic in major European cities, taxis are involved in only 1% of all road accidents.

Out of all accidents involving taxis, less than 1% result in fatalities of taxi passengers.

The European taxi industry is committed to improving these already excellent statistics through vocational training and raising educational standards of drivers.

Taxis for safe travel!



Did you know...

that travelling by taxi reduces congestion?

The promotion of taxis and hire cars with drivers is an important congestion management strategy. Since taxis provide a quality of service that approximates that which car drivers are used to, they can maintain a high level of access throughout urban areas with a drop in overall car usage.

Much more can be achieved to reduce congestion if a spirit of partnership prevails, with public authorities and businesses working together to implement pro-taxi policies, such as priority taxi stops, lanes and schemes.

Taxis for free flowing traffic!



Did you know... that taxis help to reduce our negative impact on the environment?

Taxi drivers are driving some of the most environmentally friendly vehicles. Entire fleets of taxis turn over every three to five years in Europe, allowing taxi companies to stay on top of technological progress and engine efficiency in pollution, noise and CO₂ emissions, and permitting new technologies to enter the mainstream.

Alternative fuels also represent a significant share of the taxi fleet in places like Sweden (18%), Germany (20%) and Bulgaria (70%). The high percentages of market penetration of alternative fuels in these Member States are to be attributed to appropriate fiscal incentives and the increasingly larger use of green regulatory measures.

Taxis for less CO₂!



Did you know...

that over 80% of travellers by taxi are highly satisfied with their trip?

Taxi services are the most flexible of all passenger transport modes. They are available in varying sizes at any time of the day or night. Taxis and hire cars with drivers also offer a personal service at a reasonable price.

It is therefore no mystery that more than three persons out of four are completely satisfied with their taxi trip on the basis of criteria including availability, service, comfort and cost.

Taxis 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

*Working together
for a better future*



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