



Taxis - for a level playing field

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

Taxis and Hire Cars with Driver Trade Associations, Members of the IRU,

- ***Committed to support the organised taxi industry's efforts to constantly improve the quality***, attractiveness, safety, 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 regulatory framework***, including by launching a Global Taxi Service Quality Network, with the objective to provide citizens, businesses and booking platforms with a one-stop shop solution to help them ordering legal and safe taxi services anytime, anywhere in the world;
- ***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 a 24-hour/365-day availability for all, and empowering the public transport chain to compete successfully with the private car; 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 long-term mobility interests of 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 and jobs,

Appeal to international and 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 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 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***, to guarantee the rights, safety and security of citizens,

Invite the European Commission to consider, as a first step, proposing an adapted access to the profession regime for taxis and hire cars with driver in Europe, taking into account its specific operational and service environment, as proposed and advocated for a decade by the European taxi and hire cars with driver industry;

Invite social partners, other mobility stakeholders and customer organisations, including organisations representing the interests of travellers with disabilities, to join the organised taxi industry efforts, to guarantee a level playing field for all, including self-proclaimed “ride-sharing” for-reward transport platforms; 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, including those which are partners of the Global Taxi Service Quality Network.

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