



*To the Contracting Parties participating
in the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP)*

Via email
27 May 2026

RE: Support for advancing bus frontal collision safety for driver protection

Dear GRSP Delegates,

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) call on your support to advance urgent international action on frontal collision safety for buses and coaches within the UNECE framework. Bus drivers remain dangerously exposed in frontal collisions due to limited frontal deformation space, the driver's seating position at the very front of the vehicle, and the high impact forces generated by heavy passenger vehicles.

Research and accident investigations conducted by the Norwegian Institute of Transport Economics following fatal low-speed crashes have exposed clear shortcomings in the current regulatory framework. These findings confirm that active safety systems alone cannot adequately protect drivers and that stronger passive safety measures are urgently needed. Bus drivers have the fundamental right to a safe working environment. Preventing avoidable deaths and serious injuries must become a regulatory priority.

We strongly encourage you to actively support this initiative during the meeting, including the establishment of a dedicated working group to advance this work. Strong engagement from Contracting Parties will be essential to identifying balanced and effective solutions that deliver meaningful safety improvements for drivers while ensuring sustainable passenger transport operations.

We firmly believe that through cooperation between governments, manufacturers, operators, workers' representatives and technical experts, balanced and effective solutions can be achieved to significantly improve driver protection in frontal collisions.

Yours sincerely,

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General Secretary
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Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General
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Livia Spera
General Secretary
ETF