



Brussels, 27 November 2020

## **Stakeholders' Pledge to Enhance Collective Mobility in Cities**

### ***Coach travel in, around and between European cities***

#### **PURPOSE**

Cities, regions and coach operators providing services in, around and between European cities share common concerns in terms of air quality, decarbonisation and energy transition. The objective of this Pledge is to promote and increase the use of collective mobility in everyday travel and other mobility needs such as school, employee and socio-cultural transport, intercity long distance connections and tourism.

Collaborative efforts between cities and coach operators are required to achieve environmental and operational targets at national and European level. This Pledge from cities and coach operators should enable better coordination between stakeholders and recognise travel by coach as a solution to urban air quality and/or congestion issues rather than as a problem. The benefits of collective mobility should be encouraged, especially, in a post-COVID era in which cities and transport operators will have to make significant efforts to restore the environment and revive the local economy by supporting the travel and tourism sectors.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Cities and regions strive to make their cities more liveable and meet the Paris Agreement targets.

Local and national governments face a growing demand to improve the quality of life of their citizens by reallocating public space, reducing air or noise pollution and traffic congestion in urban areas.

Coach travel is an important element of collective mobility chains and mass transit systems in, around and between European cities.

Coach operators and the services they offer are essential for an inclusive society, in that they are one of the first-hand mobility options for the most vulnerable population groups (e.g. schoolchildren, the elderly and group travel, especially for people not acquainted with the local language).

Global and European environmental and energy transition objectives present a challenge and an opportunity for cities, regions and collective mobility service providers.

## STAKEHOLDERS' COMMITMENT TO ACTION

We, the undersigned, commit to take action based on the following mutually agreed principles:

1. **Integration of incoming coach traffic in sustainable urban mobility plans:** Design strategies integrating coach travel in local urban mobility plans, including coach access plans as distinct from urban freight plans (SULPs).
2. **Specific access and traffic rules for coaches:** Establish coherent, comprehensive, affordable and practical local/regional coach access strategies, including differentiated parking solutions, routing, amenities for drivers, alternative fuelling and charging infrastructure.
3. **Impact assessment:** Assess the impact of the routing, parking and access regulations that apply to coaches, analyse the efficiency and proportionality of the measures. Evaluate accessibility for vulnerable groups and people with reduced mobility, as well as access regulations for visiting coaches to certain destinations within cities (e.g. cultural and educational institutions).
4. **Consultation:** Local coach access strategies based on consultation between the local and international coach sector and cities/metropolitan areas, involving relevant local and regional stakeholders in the design of the strategy.
5. **Technology neutrality:** Offer technology-neutral conditions for the access of coaches to cities provided coaches comply with local emissions requirements. In addition, policy frameworks should be put in place to accelerate the deployment of alternatives to current technologies - including the rollout of alternative fuel infrastructure and the creation of a stable and predictable investment-enabling environment.
6. **Communication, notification:** Coach access strategies and measures properly communicated to all stakeholders concerned in a timely manner by the competent local and regional authorities.
7. **Harmonisation of document recognition:** Call on the EU Institutions to take the necessary measures to ensure that all official documents issued by an authorised public or private body to certify vehicle compliance or conformity with EU or national standards should be recognised by the enforcement authorities of all other EU Member States. This includes evidence documents for retrofitting and tailpipe emission tests and periodic roadworthiness testing certificates. This will enable cities to work towards harmonising entry permits.
8. **Single window for information:** Call on the EU Institutions to develop harmonised standards for information and vehicle registration at EU level. Information about new and existing schemes, the related administrative procedures and the transition periods should be available in a standardised, multilingual format via an "EU single window".

### Signatories of the Pledge:



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Delegation to the EU  
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Ms Karen Vancluysen  
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