

Press Release



TaxiEurope Alliance

Launching event

Brussels, 26th April 2017

On Wednesday April 26th at 12 a.m. in the Press Room of the European Parliament, TaxiEurope Alliance (TEA) held a press conference to present itself to the media and the EU institutions.

The event is host by David Sassoli MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament and member of the TRAN Committee, and Fernando Rúas MEP, member of the REGI Committee.

The TaxiEurope Alliance is the European association representing the interests of the taxi sector, and it has been founded by FEDETAXI from Spain (Federación Española del Taxi), URI from Italy (Unione dei Radiotaxi d'Italia) and ANTRAL from Portugal (Associação Nacional dos Transportadores Rodoviários en Automóveis Ligeiros).

The TaxiEurope Alliance represents more than 100,000 drivers in the countries of the three founding members. TEA will work together with the European institutions to identify solutions and ensure that the sector's voice is heard to promote social, economic, financial and professional issues related to the taxi sector.

TEA's main priority will be people and, in particular, passengers and drivers. Taxi services must continue to evolve as a rapid, comfortable and safe mode of public transport. For this reason, TEA will seek to promote quality services which are both attractive and respect the working conditions of taxi drivers. This is why the expertise and professionalism of taxi drivers must be preserved and the exchange of best practices promoted.

At the meeting, Miguel Ángel Leal -president of FEDETAXI-, Lorenzo Bittarelli -president of URI- and Florêncio Almeida -president of ANTRAL-, are going to speak to reaffirm the common commitment to defend the public taxi service in Europe.

#TEA #TaxiEuropeAlliance



TaxiEurope Alliance (TEA) Introduction Brochure

1... Who are we?

2... What are tea's objectives?

3... What are tea's strategic action lines?

1... Who are we?



FEDETAXI is the Spanish federation of the taxi sector. It has been constituted in 2012 with the purpose of defending, promoting and developing taxi drivers' and member associations' interests. Its founding members are four large organizations of the sector in Spain: the Asociación Gremial de Auto Taxi de Madrid, Federación Castellano Leonesa del Taxi, Federación Andaluza del Taxi and Associació de Taxistes de les Illes Balears. Over time, other relevant associations joined FEDETAXI, for instance, Unalt, Apatz or Stac. Today, FEDETAXI represents more than 20,000 licenses - 70% of all Spanish taxi professionals.



Miguel Ángel Leal
President of FEDETAXI.
President of TaxiEurope Alliance



URI was born in 2004 due to the growing need for representation, organization and coordination at Italian level of Radiotaxi facilities that Italian taxi drivers had created over the years. Over time, URI has played a key role in the relationship between the taxi sector, Italian institutions, and political stakeholders. Today URI is present throughout the Italian territory with more than 50 associated Radiotaxi facilities. URI is renowned for its projects aimed at the continuous pursuit of service quality improvement and technological innovation, with particular attention to social and environmental issues.



Loreno Bittarelli
President of URI.
Vice President of TaxiEurope Alliance



ANTRAL is an organization that brings together about six thousand members with a fleet of more than 12,000 vehicles. Active since 1975, its mission is to protect the taxi service throughout the country, and it is the largest organization in the sector in Portugal. For ANTRAL, drivers' and passengers' safety should be viewed as the main concern of those who circulate on the road, however, this concern becomes paramount when transportation becomes a service to the public.



Florêncio Almeida
President of ANTRAL.
Vice President of TaxiEurope Alliance

2... What are tea's objectives?

FEDETAXI, URI and ANTRAL met in Rome on 5th April and sealed their alliance by signing a manifesto, which sets out the mission and main objectives of the TaxiEurope Alliance (TEA):

Manifesto on the creation of the TaxiEurope Alliance (TEA)

Today, three Associations, representing more than 100,000 taxi drivers from Portugal, Spain and Italy, met in Rome to finalise the creation of the TaxiEurope Alliance (TEA). Due to be launched on 26 April, TEA is an initiative of: ANTRAL (Associação Nacional dos Transportadores Rodoviários en Automóveis Ligeiros), FEDETAXI (Federación Española del Taxi) and URI (Unione dei Radiotaxi d'Italia). TEA's main objectives will be to

- promote social, economic, financial and professional issues related to the taxi sector at European level.*
- represent the sector vis-a-vis both European institutions and international organisations.*

TEA's main priority will be people and, in particular, passengers and drivers. Taxi services must continue to evolve as a rapid, comfortable and safe mode of public transport. For this reason, TEA will seek to promote quality services which are attractive, to respect working conditions of taxi drivers and to preserve sound conditions for taxi companies. This is why the expertise and professionalism of taxi drivers must be preserved and the exchange of best practices promoted.

The TaxiEurope Alliance embraces technological innovation. TEA will thus promote the safe and high quality services available thanks to the latest mobile technologies which comply fully with regulatory frameworks. Whilst there is a need to invest in, and adapt to, changing circumstances, this must always be done in compliance with European legislation.

Under TEA, ANTRAL, FEDETAXI and URI are committed to working together and ensuring that taxi services have a voice at European and international level. At European level, the TaxiEurope Alliance will defend the sector against unfair competition and will call on policymakers to protect public taxi services. At the same time, TEA will encourage policymakers to fight against those transport services which have branded themselves as being part of the collaborative economy, but which avoid paying taxes and which have a negative impact on legal employment and mobility.

The TaxiEurope Alliance will work together with the European institutions to identify solutions and ensure that the sector's voice is heard in any legislative proposal concerning transport employment, false collaborative economy businesses, environmental issues and, in particular, urban transport planning.

The presidents of ANTRAL, FEDETAXI and URI - founding members of the TaxiEurope Alliance - firmly endorse these objectives and call upon other national taxi associations which share these principles to join forces under the umbrella of TEA. Only with the support of the sector as a whole can the taxi sector face the challenges ahead.

Rome, 5 April 2017.

3... What are tea's strategic action lines?

Since its formal creation, TEA will work to attract other taxi associations of the 27 EU countries, extending its legitimacy and representation base vis à vis EU institutions and international organizations.

Thus, TEA's European agenda is framed by the following four strategic lines of action:

1. A new European actor in the mobility debate

TEA will be an active interlocutor in all debates on transport and mobility at EU and international level. It will engage in defining the limits between mobility and IT services. It will act as the voice of the sector on subjects such as the introduction of new electric, interconnected and autonomous vehicles, and the promotion of a sustainable urban mobility. TEA will defend taxis as a public service of general interest, that must be taken into account when designing a regulatory framework that is able to combine free competition and innovation with workers' social rights, quality and safety; as well as accessibility and universality of the service. TEA will also defend a fiscal model that obliges mobility providers to pay taxes in the territory where the provision of the service is performed.

2. Free competition in the medium and long term

TEA is aware of the need to renovate the traditional taxi model. At the same time TEA wants to warn of the harmful consequences of a false "collaborative economy" on market competition, consumer protection and user protection. TEA brings forward to the EU institutions and international organizations the risks derived from the behaviour of companies like Uber, that seek to consolidate their position in new markets through predatory pricing policies while providing precarious working conditions for their employees. These multinationals do not seek to stimulate free competition but, simply and plainly, to use their great means to replace the public service model of the autotaxi system with a private one. This private model hides a false liberalization of a very pernicious nature for the users since, in the end, it will lead - from positions of oligopoly - agreed price rises and market closure.

3. Vocational training and innovation: towards the EUTaxi (European Taxi Statute)

TEA will encourage the exchange of good practices among its member associations, with special attention to areas such as language training, tourism and social services.

TEA also wants to promote public, open and free digital platforms based on shared open data, fostering an approach that will benefit local communities and public administrations. Such platforms will be dedicated to licensed vehicles and will enable the operators to improve the quality of their services and their accessibility. Recent examples can be the blue licence plate initiative in the Netherlands and the Le.taxi in France.

TEA will work towards the definition of a European Taxi Statute (EUTaxi) that will set the common basic elements of public autotaxi's services, with criteria that respect the objectives and values defined above, and the benefit of all users.

4. Sustainability

In the context of the debate on climate change, TEA wishes to promote the right regulatory conditions for an ever more sustainable urban mobility. To this aim TEA will strongly support all R&D initiatives at European level in the areas of urban mobility and transport.

TEA will also promote agreements with the local administrations for the transformation of traditional taxi fleets into electrical ones.

Finally, from the very moment of its incorporation, TEA will seek to participate in EU programs such as Horizon 2020 or Life +, contributing its knowledge, experiences and know-how, which will be multiplied by the presence in its heart of associations from different EU countries.