



**TaxiEurope
Alliance**

ADVOCATE GENERAL SZPUNAR SAYS THAT UBER PROVIDES TRANSPORT SERVICES

Maciej Szpunar -Polish Advocate General-, gives reason to the taxi drivers. Uber cannot "being treated as a mere intermediary between drivers and passengers" set up on his Opinion, made public this Thursday.

Brussels, 12th May 2017, 09:00 a.m- The Advocate General of the European Court of Justice (CJEU), Maciej Szpunar, has ruled this Thursday that Uber platform is a transport service which may need a license to provide services in the EU Member States.

Uber has defended its intermediary position since its establishment, claiming that it lacks its own fleet of vehicles and does not pay salaries to drivers. This is its justification for not being subject to same regulation as the taxi sector. The Advocate General rejects Uber's position and considers that Uber's profit-seeking prevents it from being considered a ride-sharing platform. *"Drivers on the Uber platform offer passengers a transport service to a destination selected by the passenger and, accordingly, are paid an amount which far exceeds the mere reimbursement of expenses incurred. It is therefore a traditional transport service"* he says.

Advocate General's Opinion -not binding- uses to coincide with CJEU's final judgment, which will come to light in a few months. CJEU would endorse the view expressed by the Advocate General: Uber provides *"a transport service"* which must be subject to *"conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate transport services within a Member State"*.

Miguel Ángel Leal, President of TaxiEurope (TEA), believes that *"Advocate General's Opinion should be sufficient for the European Institutions to support the public taxi sector against this type of multinationals that avoid taxes and do not guarantee the rights of their workers and their customers"*. *"National governments should already require this platform to comply with transport regulations"*, he adds.

TEA was launched on 26th April in the European Parliament and represents more than 100,000 drivers in Italy, Spain and Portugal. TEA will work towards the definition of a European Taxi Statute that will set the common basic elements of public taxi service and the benefit of all users.

TEA wants to promote public, open and free digital platforms based on shared open data that will be dedicated to licensed vehicles and will enable the operators to improve the quality of their services and their accessibility.

EMBARGO: 12th May, 09:00 a.m

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