



TAXIS
4 SMART
MOBILITY
MANIFESTO

Taxis 4 Smart Mobility (T4SM) is a coalition of like-minded, innovative, and socially responsible taxi organisations, together creating **the European voice of the taxi industry**.

By greening our fleets and embracing technological innovations, we are actively engaged in the **development of smart mobility, sustainable cities, and green rural areas**.

In the ever-changing world of urban mobility, **the taxi industry stands at the forefront, bridging the gap between tradition and innovation**. Taxis are integral to local public transport, offering mobility for everyone at any time and any place.

In recent years, **the taxi sector has been actively addressing societal challenges** posed by climate change, affordability concerns during periods of high inflation, and the necessity for sustainable urban mobility, while providing their representatives with adequate support and resources for fair living standards.

Given the unique nature of taxis, their **success hinges on respecting the distinct cultures they serve, allowing flexibility to meet diverse customer needs**. As the taxi business is not characteristically cross-border, maintaining regulations at the local and national level empowers cities and countries to effectively tackle challenges and leverage existing infrastructure for optimal service provision.

That's why T4SM believes that real change for the taxi sector happens at the local level and that **collaboration with local authorities under existing legislation should be a priority**. Moreover, our members are driven by **sustainability, digital innovation, and social responsibility** – values we consider fundamental to the future of EU mobility, which we aim to render green, smart, and safe.

T4SM POLICY ASKS FOR THE NEXT EU MANDATE

As the EU regulatory environment advances and new players enter the market, **we call on the European Commission to recognise the unique nature of the taxi industry and ensure a sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible future of mobility**. Our policy asks are split in three areas:



SUSTAINABILITY



DIGITAL INNOVATION



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



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Sustainability

Positioned at the forefront of urban environmental change, taxis represent a mode of transport that is in line with future trends. Due to their widespread presence and large fleets, they have the potential to **raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable mobility solutions**, thereby promoting a more sustainable, inclusive, and safer transport environment. T4SM recognises that decarbonising the transport sector is key to achieving the EU's climate change targets and strongly believes that the **European Green Deal has established a clear path to a more sustainable future**.

To contribute to this vision, our members are dedicated to **greening their fleets towards environmentally friendly solutions** by incorporating zero- and low-emission vehicles. Given that taxis cover over eight times the distance per year compared to individual cars, prioritising investment in taxis over private vehicles would yield a more substantial return on investment in terms of reducing CO2 emissions. Furthermore, taxis have the **capacity to enhance public transportation services** by extending their coverage and optimizing routes through pooling, thus providing convenient on-demand services.

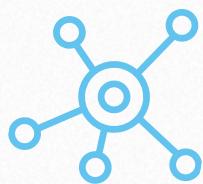
Through collaborative efforts with local and national authorities, the taxi industry is actively engaged in initiatives that enhance air quality and contribute to the overall well-being of citizens. However, the transition to greener taxi fleets faces challenges due to **financial constraints and the need for rapid progress**. To address this, **legislators must prioritise the implementation of regulatory incentives** as a primary strategy. It is also essential to integrate the expanded potential of taxis into tenders and urban planning initiatives to ensure their effective utilization and integration within the transportation framework. Emphasising a localized approach will encourage strong cooperation between companies and authorities, ensuring a first-class service for all citizens.



Our recommendations

- Create **financial support tools aimed at promoting fleet greening initiatives**. Regulated services such as taxis face the challenge of the elevated costs associated with zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). These expenses often cannot be transferred to customers, placing the financial strain on drivers or dispatchers, potentially hindering the uptake of ZEVs.
- Promote the **electrification of fleets in smaller towns** and support local municipalities financially to increase fleet greening.
- Work closely with local sector representatives to develop an effectively functioning **robust network of refuelling stations and high-speed charging points (DC or HPC)**. Installing dedicated charging infrastructure at taxi stands would streamline the transition to ZEVs, providing drivers with convenient access to charging during their shifts.



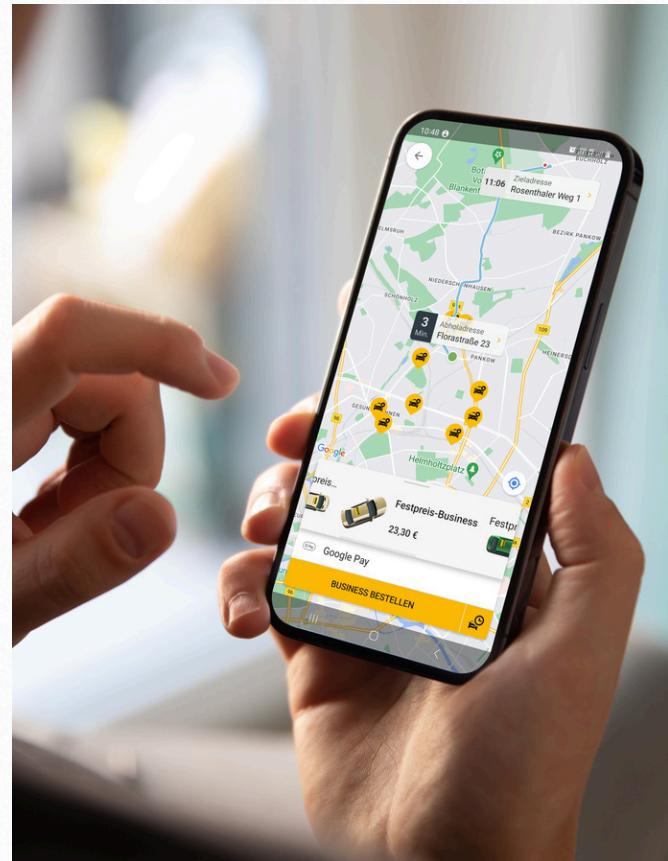


Digital transition

T4SM is strongly committed to enabling the **digital transition in mobility by making the taxi industry more innovative and simpler to use by customers**. To facilitate this, our members are actively embracing various initiatives, including the development of dedicated mobile applications for taxi bookings and the integration of virtual assistants into dispatch centers.

We also believe that **data sharing** with public authorities (B2G) greatly improves public understanding of mobility patterns, if they are equipped with the right tools and expertise to analyse the data. However, even in such cases, **the principle of voluntary participation should be respected**.

To truly allow for data sharing to serve the best interest of consumers, **policy arrangements should outline clear gains by establishing a baseline level of data sharing that is required for a successful digital transition in mobility**. Moreover, liability conditions must be clearly established between the different actors involved in data sharing, and a **clear distinction between public (B2G) and the commercial (B2B) data sharing should be made**, considering that data is a key asset with monetary value.



Our recommendations

- Help Member States and local authorities develop the **tools for reading and analysing data** provided by the transport sector, while ensuring the voluntary nature of data sharing, particularly in the case of SMEs.
- Introduce measures to help Member States and local authorities reflect on **the benefits and monetary value of data in voluntary data sharing** arrangements.
- Provide **financial support to taxi businesses** to unleash the potential of **digitalisation and Mobility as a Service (MaaS)**.

When implementing the legislation for the **European mobility data space governance**:

- Uphold **the principles of competitiveness and non-discrimination** in the creation of a **Single Market for data**.
- Ensure data sharing arrangements are efficient, transparent, and trustworthy by developing **clear liability conditions** between different actors and required **baseline levels for data sharing**.





Social responsibility

As an inseparable part of day-to-day life across Europe, taxis are **central to public transport ensuring mobility for all**, including pupils, the elderly, tourists, commuters, and people with special needs. They have always played a key role in providing an essential public transport service in both urban and peri-urban areas. This is why T4SM believes it is of utmost importance to ensure **adequate working conditions for taxi drivers**.

What makes the taxi sector successful is its **adaptability to national and local realities**. As taxes do not function across borders, they have developed in accordance with each unique culture and can adapt to the needs of every customer.

Our challenge is to keep offering an **innovative economic model**, capable of competing with both large multinationals and private ride-sharing services, while being sustainable and guaranteeing high-quality standards in terms of efficiency, punctuality, and safety.

The taxi industry operates under strict local regulations that not only ensure the **safety, protection, and quality of service** for customers, but also safeguard the welfare of the workforce.

To guarantee a safe and sustainable mobility framework for all European citizens, as well as adequate social protection for all, we strongly believe that a playing field is needed through **regulation at local level**. Over-complicating these policies at higher administrative levels risks undermining their effectiveness and could potentially jeopardise the fair treatment of our employees.



Our recommendations

- Ensure **compliance with existing national and local legislation** and prioritise the security and safety of those who choose to make a living through concerned platforms.
- Keep the current two definitions of **“independent worker” and “employee”**, instead of creating a complex third status, to give drivers legal clarity.
- Support Member States by **promoting jobs in the taxi industry**, emphasising their security, safety, and legitimacy for workers.



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