

For a fair, modern and unified EU framework for ride-hailing, taxis & PHVs

December 2025

Introduction

Shared mobility is now an essential part of Europe's transport ecosystem. Every day, more than **1.5 million** trips are made through ride-hailing apps, enabling millions of Europeans to move freely, work flexibly, and participate fully in economic and social life. Yet the rules governing these services remain fragmented, outdated, and often protectionist, written for a world before smartphones, before apps, and before the emergence of a competitive, digital mobility sector.

That's why we—**driver organisations, innovative mobility platforms, and technology providers** across the continent—came together as Shared Mobility Europe. Our members ANM-TVDE, ANITRAV, MOVEA, MuoverSi, psm, PZPA, TAF & TL, Bolt, Cachet, leCab, Vay and others decided to join forces to call **for coherent, proportional, future-proof rules for taxis, private hire vehicles (PHVs), and ride-hailing platforms.**

This position paper provides the necessary background to the issues at stake and proposes a workable legal solution at the EU level.

The problem: an outdated & biased mobility landscape at odds with EU law

Across the EU, ride-hailing and PHV rules change not only from country to country, but from city to city. The result is a patchwork of contradictory obligations that undermine the internal market, suppress innovation, reduce mobility options, and deny drivers fair opportunities to work.

Examples of fragmentation and disproportionate regulation

- In **Poland**, to drive you across town, your driver might need up to 18 licenses for a 35 km zone.
- In parts of **Spain**, ride-hailing vehicles must be at least 4.9 meters long. The result? Drivers add unnecessary bumpers just to comply.
- In **Malta**, every car you take has to own a private garage. Translation: fewer drivers on the road, longer waits for citizens.
- In **Italy**, passengers could soon be forced to wait 20 minutes after booking - even if the car is already outside.
- In **Germany**, ride-hailing drivers must return empty to their garage after every trip - even if the next customer is around the corner.

These measures do not improve safety or consumer protection. They simply shield incumbents, reduce supply, and leave passengers stranded, especially in cities with weak public transport.

That is why booking a ride is effortless in Lisbon, Warsaw, Amsterdam, Tallinn, but nearly impossible in Barcelona, Athens, Rome, where up to **50% of ride requests go unfulfilled**. Europeans deserve better.

Despite the Commission's **2022 Notice on Local Passenger Transport-on-Demand**, Member States continue to impose rules which are at odds with EU law. These go against the principles of the EU Single Market and infringing on the EU's fundamental freedoms (to provide services and of establishment).

Without a clear EU framework, Member States continue to push the boundaries of what is permissible. This forces platforms and drivers into endless litigation, and creates instability across the market.

Our proposed solution: an EU framework for taxis, PHVs & ride-hailing

Europe needs legislation that protects local flexibility while eliminating unjustified barriers. We call for **two complementary EU instruments**:

A Directive on taxi & PHV market rules (Legal basis: Art. 91 & 114 TFEU) This directive should: (i) Establish harmonised access conditions for professional drivers, including: • Valid driving licence • Background checks • Basic training • Registration in a common EU-compatible format (ii) Ensure fair access to the profession, prohibiting arbitrary quotas or duplication of licences. 1. Ensure fair exercise of the profession, banning unjustified restrictions such as: ○ Mandatory wait times (5, 10, 30 minutes) ○ Return-to-garage rules ○ Minimum hire durations ○ Geolocation bans (iii) Enable local rules when: ○ They serve legitimate public interests (e.g., congestion, environment) ○ They are non-discriminatory ○ They are proportionate and evidence-based	An EU regulation for ride-hailing platforms (Legal basis: Art. 114 TFEU & E-Commerce Directive) Similar to the Short-Term Rental (STR) Regulation, this instrument would: 1. Recognize ride-hailing intermediation as an EU-defined service activity. 2. Clarify duties for platforms as information society services. 3. Standardize essential data-sharing with authorities (templates, frequency, purpose-limitation). 4. Prevent digital discrimination, ensuring online and offline dispatch services are treated equally. 5. Allow cities to impose justified, proportionate safety and environmental rules without fragmenting the internal market.
--	--

(iv) Guarantee fare transparency, for taxis and PHVs, with dynamic pricing allowed under clear disclosure rules.

This model mirrors existing EU regulation for other transport sectors, including **Regulation 1071/2009**, which governs access to the profession for passenger transport operators.

The benefits of EU action

Our proposed solution respects local competences, while ensuring that drivers, passengers, and platforms operate under clear, consistent, and lawful rules across Europe. Our vision is a modern, competitive and sustainable mobility sector, regulated by a unified EU framework.

This will deliver:

- ★ **More mobility for citizens**, especially where public transport is limited
- ★ **More earning opportunities** for drivers
- ★ **Better prices and innovation** through competition
- ★ **Lower emissions** through efficient fleets and reduced empty driving
- ★ **Legal certainty** for platforms, drivers, cities, and regulators
- ★ **A stronger, more digital and competitive Europe**

As happened previously with aviation, telecoms, payments, and digital services, an EU action can also unlock the shared mobility sector - for the benefits of all.

Our Call to Action

Europe cannot rely on courts to fix systemic regulatory failures. We therefore ask the European Commission, the European Parliament, and Member States to:

- **Propose an EU directive for taxis and PHVs**
- **Propose an EU regulation for ride-hailing platforms**
- **Ensure enforcement of EU single market freedoms in the mobility sector**

Europeans expect simple, reliable, affordable ways to move. Drivers expect fair access to work. Cities expect efficient and sustainable mobility.

Shared Mobility Europe stands ready to work with EU institutions, Member States, and cities to build a coherent, modern, and fair mobility framework for all.

It is time to modernize Europe's mobility rules, and unlock the full potential of shared mobility.