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Buses and Coaches: environmental champions of passenger transport

Doubling bus and coach transport through effective business and public policy incentives is the Smart Move to significantly cut CO₂ emissions while achieving sustainable mobility.

Copenhagen – “Taking the bus or travelling by coach is among the simplest, quickest and cheapest ways for individuals to contribute to CO₂ reduction”, said Graham Smith, Vice President of the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

Buses and coaches are the largest collective transport mode worldwide. Thanks to their flexibility, buses and coaches, together with taxis, offer a sustainable alternative to private car use while maintaining a high level of flexibility.

“It should be widely known that buses and coaches are the environmental champions among all modes of motorised passenger transport”, continued Mr Smith. “In my country, the UK, coaches emit 0.03 kg of CO₂ per passenger-kilometre. This is half of the CO₂ emissions of the second best performer – trains. A 400 km passenger journey from London to Blackpool will emit 11 kg of CO₂ if done by coach, 23 to 25 kg if done by train, 44 kg if done by car and 68kg if done by air.”

Doubling the use of buses and coaches is therefore the smartest way of achieving sustainable mobility for all. Such an increase, in Europe alone would save 50 million tonnes of CO₂ per year - a reduction of 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ per second.

For the road passenger transport industry, doubling the use of buses and coaches worldwide is a realistic policy. It is supported by the [road transport industry's pledge to cut 30% of its CO₂ emissions by 2030](#), in close cooperation with manufacturers and public authorities. Collective passenger transport by bus and coach has the potential to significantly contribute to ambitious CO₂ reduction targets – a tangible “Smart Move” that decision makers should pursue following the COP15 debates.

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See the [SmartMove pictures](#) at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change

For more information, see

- [Smart Move](#)
- [Did You Know..? Facts and Figures on road transport in Europe](#)
- [The IRU and CO₂](#)

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