

Exchange on Public Transport and Sustainability: Conclusions

The European Networking workshop on Better Urban Public Transport for Europe was held on the 19 May in Bruxelles and triggered a lively exchange amongst 34 participants representing transport authorities, NGO's, consultants, unions and policy-makers. The workshop was organised as part of the SIPTRAM project (Sustainability in the Urban Public Transport Market) and is the final of series of similar national and European events on improving the environmental and quality standards of urban public transport through the competitive tendering process.



Discussions amongst participants at the European workshop.

The workshop was used to disseminate the results of some of the key initiatives of the SIPTRAM project, such as the studies undertaken into the hidden subsidies paid by local governments towards private car transportation, environmental and quality criteria to consider for the procurement of public transport services (and vehicles). The results of a survey of European local and regional transport authorities were also presented. Participants also benefited from the practical exchange of experiences from the Netherlands and the cities of

Frankfurt am Main and Ferrara (in Italy). An insight into the European legal framework was presented by Michaela Strohschneider from the European Commission's DG for Transport & Energy who explained that the European Regulation on public service obligations in passenger transport, although having passed the internal review round, still needs to be approved by the European Council and the Parliament. It seems that several of the criteria covered by the Regulation will not be as stringent with the recent EU enlargement.

To download the workshop presentations please go to <http://www.increase-public-transport.net/index.php?id=1704>. For more information on the SIPTRAM project please write to mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org.