



# Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Capital Cities Conference

## Transport and mobility in European capitals for the improvement of living and working conditions

18 to 20 March 2019, Sofia, Bulgaria



The 2019 conference of the European Capitals Trade Union Network (ECTUN) took place in the Hilton Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria.

The conference was attended by 45 delegates from: Athens EKA, Belgrade CATUS, Berlin DGB, La Valletta GWU, Lisbon CGTP-IN, London GLATUC,

SERTUC, Madrid CCOO, UGT, Moscow MTUF, Oslo LO-N, Paris CGT, FO, UNSA, Riga LBAS, Rome CGIL, CISL, UIL, Sofia CITUB, PODKREPA, along with Luca Visentini, ETUC General Secretary, and many experts.

## Monday 18 March 2019

**Christina Theochari** (coordinator of the Permanent Committee and conference chair) welcomed delegates to Sofia and thanked the Bulgarian confederations, Podkrepa and CITUB, for hosting the conference.

She outlined the background to the European Capitals Trade Union Network (ECTUN) and the recent structural changes, as well as some of the challenges facing trade unions in capital cities.



The central topic would be urban transport systems, but we will also address the forthcoming Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), European parliamentary elections, and the rise of populism in our region.

**Luca Visentini** (ETUC general secretary and also general secretary of the Pan European Regional Council) thanked Bulgarian politicians and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) for their support.



We are living in a critical moment for Europe – parliamentary elections mean we need vigilance for social democracy. Geo-political turbulence needs to be at the core of our work. The European Pillar of Social Rights needs to be transformed into concrete rights – convergence and stability are our aims. We have achieved revision of the Posted Workers Directive – for full equal treatment implemented – especially in terms of equal pay.

We are concerned about wage convergence – for instance the minimum wage in Bulgaria is one seventh of higher wage economies and this leads to wage dumping and greater inequalities. This means we need to strengthen collective bargaining in every country and workplace.

ECTUN offers a unique opportunity to strengthen these objectives and values across Europe and the wider region.

**Biser Petkov** (Minister of Labour and Social Policy) congratulated ECTUN on the topic of the conference – transport and mobility – and said that the development of transport is dependent on economic strength. Mobility has improved in Sofia; they have started to improve labour rights and the role of trade unions is vital in this – for example the risk assessment regulations have improved.

**Yordanka Fandakova** (Mayor of Sofia) shared local authority views on social dialogue and on conditions for transport workers in Sofia.

There is a new transport system in Sofia and we have improved the quality of the air in the city. In



turbulent times active and cooperative dialogue is important, and trade unions are central to this.



To be successful we have to fight populism. Constructive dialogue is the only way to do this and we have improved wages and working conditions via negotiation.

**Philip Pochet** (ETUI general director) said that ECTUN had now, at its 18<sup>th</sup> conference, reached the age of maturity – it is no longer a teenager! Few networks survive and the ETUI is proud to support it.

**Dimitar Manolov** (Podkrepa president) said that much of Sofia (8,000 years old in parts) had been destroyed during world war two. It is a unique city with mountains around and 40 usable spas. “We grow, but not old” is the city’s motto. Concerns regarding populism and we need to bring the trade union agenda closer to the interests and needs of ordinary people.

**Ecaterina Yordanova** (CITUB) said we are entering the fourth industrial revolution – developing smart cities – digitalisation is not enough. Trade unions have introduced the “just transformation” approach – changes must take care of workers with lifelong learning, green jobs and so on. Trade unions should be the drivers of change and regulators of justice.

*Break*

**Philippe Pochet** ETUI presented “Trade unions: strategic challenges when working at a capital city” beginning with a map with three lines: Smart,

Green, Inclusive – and all lines cross at Urban Mobility. The drivers are Climate Adaptation and Digital Transition.



- Climate: young people took action in the Global Strike for the Future 15 March 2019 in more than 100 countries
- Robotisation: the platform economy brings societal challenges
- New technology: followed by “frenzy”, then a crash – now in a phase of synergy

In cities we have campaigns for housing and need clear action plans including the relationship to mobility and air quality. We need 1) leaders with vision, 2) transparency. The EU has programmes and funds that relate to cities although it is not always obvious. We need to achieve visible results our citizens can see.

*Christina thanked Philippe and invited contributions from delegates.*

**Berlin DGB:** the first mobility law in Germany was passed in Berlin to allow all to access transport and for air to be improved. This is combined with exploding cost of living in Berlin – hedge funds bought housing and the government is now buying it back. Apartments were sold and people moved to the outskirts of the city – this increased single car driving and congestion.

**Athens EKA:** we need education to encourage understanding of the right to social transportation – and to consider the cost of all transport modes – people need to use public transport and improve the environment. We need the EU to set up a 10 year fund to improve transport and the

environment. We need joint action and we need it now.

**Sofia CITUB:** we are combining climate and transport challenges. We need a global agenda according to the United Nations – and translate that to a local level with actions. We marked European mobility week with the need for high quality urban transport. There is a direct relationship between the quality of service and the quality of jobs. Trade unions offer a massive opportunity to influence political decisions and we need to make this clear – also the link between good transport and climate conditions.

**London TUC LESE:** we welcome the link to other campaigns – such as housing as people are priced out of our cities. There is now no government subsidy to London's transport and this has pushed up fares. The link between this and climate is vital.

**Oslo LO-N:** the challenges are very similar in Oslo. People are being pushed out of the city with increased travel time and this time is taken from family time. So only those who can afford to live close to work can spend time with their families – so there is a class divide. In Oslo there are more and more toll roads – this is being used by right wing popularists to gain influence in local councils – causing a real issue for the future of city councils.

**Paris UNSA:** we need an action plan to draw lessons from the past. Governments are failing hence social tensions every week – protests sparked by high fuel costs. The poorest people leave the towns and spend more time and money getting to work. Some cities might consider free transport for sections of the population. We need to abandon diesel engines, but electric cars have hazards also – including hackers corrupting navigation systems.

**Paris FO:** France reduced working hours to 35 per week but people lose more time in longer commutes. So people make changes – working from home or taking worse-paid jobs nearer home.

**Moscow MTUF:** it is significant that there are more women involved – including the Mayor. This will lead to challenges and success. In Moscow we have free transport for old people and families with many children paying less for transport. Ten years ago we had to choose whether to solve the transport or housing problem. We decided on transport for 10 years, and then we will address housing.

The role of trade unions is important to the city council. In the future digital technology will cause changes and possible tensions. The internet will play its role amongst people who are not satisfied – such as in France and the protests.

In Moscow individual activity is increasing – as opposed to collective activity – this leads to people being cheated. There is no legislation or code of regulation in such a relationship – so no protection for the worker.

*Christina thanked participants for their contributions and introduced the next speaker.*

**Luca Visentini** ETUC and PERC general secretary, introduced the Priorities of the ETUC Congress.

He said he wanted the ECTUN conference's input into preparations for Congress. The ETUC executive committee will be taking final decisions shortly so this is a timely discussion. The ETUC has invited the ECTUN Permanent Committee to attend and participate in the Congress, along with Union Migrant Net, InterRegional TUCs, and the Youth and Women's Committees.

We need to keep the EU and non-EU dimensions together – there are many problems across the whole continent – so using PERC also. PERC will renovate its leadership in October and also its priorities and personnel – and ECTUN will participate.



These are the priorities for the ETUC:

*The economic model* The last decade's neo-liberal model based on austerity is totally wrong and has led to higher inequality with no benefit.

*Wages and collective bargaining* are the core of trade unionism. There is a wage emergency across Europe – a 30% drop. Workers are in poverty and equality is down so we must increase wages and enforce collective bargaining. We must align minimum wages to costs in each country; national sectoral bargaining is essential and this will be the flagship campaign in the next four years.

*Just transition* needed over the effects of climate change and digitisation on workers' rights. Trade unions must ensure lost jobs are replaced by quality jobs.

*Rebuild the European social model* Workers' trust in the system has broken following the global financial crash and neo-liberalism. We need a social contract to ensure a better future. This distrust also builds on despair and feeds right wing populism.

*Migrant workers* are not the cause of the crisis and integration is important.

*Democracy* is a cross cutting theme. We need jobs etc but this must be accompanied by rights for individuals and trade unions. Trade unions must be at the forefront of democracy and this is at risk in many countries.

Luca concluded by saying that the ETUC Congress will also welcome relevant international guests to discuss with us – he looked forward to comments from ECTUN members.

**London TUC LESE:** the breakdown in trust can be seen in the Brexit vote as populist voices shifted the blame from those who developed austerity onto migrants and the EU. A question: building on union organisation – where does that come? We have differing models, where does ETUC support come?

**Luca:** rebuilding union power is a crucial point; we'll see if we can establish a partnership for social dialogue. It is easier to involve candidate countries or those in the EEA (Serbia/Norway for example) than the UK. What is partnership for collective bargaining? Each member state should discuss policy and a legal framework that can help deliver real/stronger collective bargaining. So trade union density and strong collective bargaining are mutually dependent and a legal framework can support it. We want to take best practice and see how we can extend this to where it never happened – some eastern countries – or where it's been taken away – for example, the UK or those countries where the Troika intervened. There is talk of a framework directive to support collective bargaining – it's the first time ever and would be very difficult but shows a change in the climate. This could then help to move things in other international bodies such as the ILO or G7.

**Madrid CC.OO:** a survey last week showed that managers in corporations in Madrid have salaries 80x greater than their workers... so, in-work poverty – we need a better minimum wage. At pan-Europe level we need convergence of wages for a common European wage; we have concern

about the way to go forward and have to overcome nationalistic elements.

**Paris CGT:** 18 March, today, is the anniversary of the French Commune! Our cornerstone is making work pay as the tendency is towards impoverishment leading to nationalism and xenophobia – all countries have similar problems. What information do we have about the protest in Brussels next month?

**Belgrade CATUS:** are we speaking about one collective agreement at EU level?

**Luca:** we do not yet have the conditions for that – but we think a directive would be a great step forward. Only 10 countries have a sectoral agreement covering all, so a directive would really help.

Multinational enterprises have no borders and often disregard existing collective agreements. We must push for enforcing existing collective agreements.

We need action and mobilisation of course and to lobby European institutions. One month before the European elections we have a European-wide demonstration, Friday 26 April in Brussels in front of the European Parliament building, to push for European agreements. Details will be available soon – discussions are ongoing with the Belgian trade unions.

The ETUC Congress is a few days before the European elections and in Austria, one of the worst examples of the rise of the far right, so also in solidarity with our Austrian colleagues.

*Break*

Delegates broke up into language based workshops to discuss ETUC priorities, how they are relevant and how they impacted on their work. Delegates then reconvened to report back.

**Group 1:** remuneration and inequality – unanimous we need to move towards convergence. As for social dialogue – state policy has an impact on trade union policy – especially

when it is a right wing government and they don't support social dialogue. Agreed that ETUC structures need to deepen cooperation for better results.

Transport and mobility are a social benefit equal to health and social security. Should be 100% publicly owned and access should be widened.

**Group 2:** all points are being discussed at all levels of our unions. Question – how much are we discussing this with our members? Points very relevant to Moscow; La Valletta is working on them – they are important but there are others.

Other priorities – London: union membership especially in construction, issue of corruption and posted workers. Moscow: unions need to change to today's reality. La Valletta – housing, and need to attract more workers, pay gap between men and women. Riga: want more social dialogue for better social agreement

The issue of the far right – all capitals seeing an increase and EU elections may see another increase. In London trade unions and the Labour Party created a new organisation to fight the far right.

**Group 3:** Berlin highlighted today's public transport action – women travelling for 80% of the fare to reflect the pay gap.



On the economic model, austerity has been



important for all over the last 10 years – poverty undermines democratic structures. Political will from political parties very important to change the economic model – insourcing has been very important (in Sofia and Berlin). The “Oslo model” was described – only companies that have collective bargaining and workforce training in place can bid for public contracts.

*Discussion followed the report backs.*

**Sofia CITUB:** shouldn't only rely on left wing governments – what we have achieved has been with a centre-right government, but we have good social dialogue. We've got public transport back in the social domain with strong and professional trade unions and good dialogue.

**Rome UIL:** we must combat the attempts to instil fear into the populace and have an approach that is clear cut and guarantees security.

**Madrid CC.OO:** not only issues of globalisation – the rise of populist right wing movements in all cities – we need unity – commonplace but true.

**Athens EKA:** governments throughout Europe failed and therefore the rise of the far right. Trade unions are the last hope for our societies.

The far right is trying to steal our ground saying they represent workers better than us. We have to rebuff this and build up our work with civil society organisations. This is part of the concrete action to win our priorities as well as other policies.

We need to distinguish what can be done at each level – cooperate and exchange experiences. Housing, health care, mobility, corruption – all can be emphasised at the European level via legislative instruments, funding etc – but need to be properly implemented at national and local level. So good coordination is essential.

We see many issues are common challenges (brain drain, migration etc) and common to EU, PERC, nations etc.

The Oslo model is very interesting and other models exist; ETUC, EC and employers have just signed an agreement on integration that has resulted in EU funding in many cities and communities. We have to show that migrants are not the enemy, but also that European institutions are not the enemies of migrants. Bad employers and governments are the enemies of migrants. It is a shame on Europe but we have to be clear where blame lies for the climate of fear and how the rise of the far right is poisoning the forthcoming



**Luca:** there is a clear indication that organising is an essential element in making our policies real. It's not only about collective bargaining, but also what trade union model we want. The ETUC document *The Future of the ETUC* addresses this issue. We must also increase the participation of members within our unions – an issue of renovation to some extent. If we can increase density amongst atypical workers this will bring added capacity to our organising and power.

European elections. This is also defending trade union values.

## Tuesday 19 March 2019

**Georgi Spasov** (chair of Sofia Regional union) welcomed delegates to Sofia, showed a short film about the city, and said that Podkrepa has

constructive social dialogue with the city council hence their success.

**Christina Theochari** introduced the proposed Declaration on populism and the extreme right, calling on all working people to vote in the forthcoming European Parliament elections. This was at the initiative of the Southern Group and had been circulated to trade unions for comment before the conference. Comments received had been incorporated into the text. There was also a text from Paris FO that had been circulated stating that they did not take a stand in political elections. She called for any further comments on the draft.

**Berlin DGB:** felt the draft contained contradictions – it called for voting and then included criticisms of the European Commission’s White Paper “The Future of Europe”. Felt that these criticisms should be replaced by the ETUC policies previously outlined by Luca accompanied by a call to members to pursue these policies.

**Luca** responded that the ETUC is calling on all candidates to support the 6 pillars outlined.

**Rome CGIL:** Italy has a populist nationalist government – we are organising seminars and our appeal to workers should be specific with calls to specific actions. Tomorrow we shall march with the European flag to realise the dream of a united Europe.

**London TUC LESE:** additional declarations are not the best use of our time – our national bodies are already taking action with the ETUC. The UK may not be having European elections because of Brexit so no point in us signing the Declaration. Agree with specific actions and sharing realities – for instance we have had far right speakers and visitors from the USA and Europe in London – we should use our time to discuss this.

**Paris CGT:** the text is a draft and not perfect so the next stage should be incorporating comments. Why not have an appeal for participation in the 26 April demonstration?

**Sofia CITUB:** agree with the DGB, so to make the document of practical use with MEPs it should be closer to the points already agreed by the ETUC. Populism is a big problem for us – on the extreme left and extreme right.

**Rome UIL:** believe the DGB is correct and we should be more specific – let’s popularise the 26 April march. This document resulted from the ETUC resolution urging us to be active participants in democracy and was adopted unanimously by all our conferences.

**Madrid CC.OO:** the situation is very dynamic in Spain. The far right is proposing to outlaw parties that support independence (such as in Catalonia) or that have Marxist ideas – we are going backwards to the time of Franco. The rise of the far right is a risk to democracy and the historic role of the trade unions has been to fight for democracy. The issues with the far right have got much worse in Spain over the past year, with far right forces uniting. We have to explain to workers what beautiful far right speeches actually mean, so the declaration should include some specific elements. We must support 26 April and 1 May demonstrations.

**Athens EKA:** there is a Greek saying “we were owing so much they took the oxen away”. We have to intervene in the most dynamic manner, concepts have to be translated into forms understood by all.

**La Valletta GWU:** we support the ETUC document and should make it clear in this declaration. One point missed – the far right movement is very close to the people so we need to be closer to our members.

**Moscow MTUF:** there is a saying “a good thing is often better than the best thing”. We can spend a lot of time – the message is there is danger from the far right parties, attempts to cut down the power of the European Parliament and distribute it to the nations. The example of Hungary – we must not let this happen in other countries so must support candidates who support our ideas. At a local level we want people to be active not



passive. We should start doing things at national and local levels. This document is a common strategy – we should draft them in each country so adopt this as a basis for that local work – equally, prepare local ones and return them to the Permanent Committee.

**Sofia Podkrepa:** we agree with London – we all have problems... in Sofia the extreme left wants us out of the European Union.

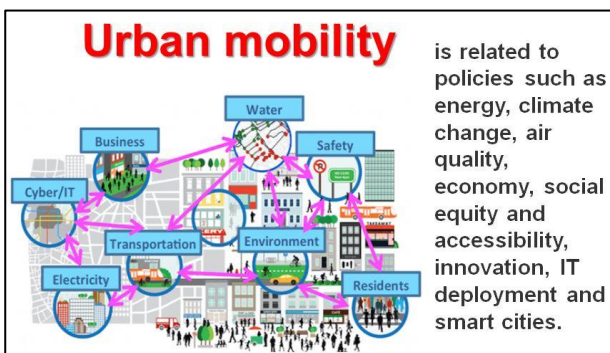
**Paris FO:** our organisation has a tradition of not participating in elections or politics so will not sign. France has an extreme centrist movement – they are not trusted so the people didn't vote. Yellow vest demos and some banned by the government. Parliament privatised the airport and people are sceptical. Elections can't solve everything – far right governments have been elected...

**Paris UNSA:** we don't agree fully with the text – things are missing, such as the defence of public services – it can be improved.

**Christina** thanked colleagues for their comments and said the Permanent Committee would review the document and return it to conference for approval.

*Break*

**Christina Theochari** opened the session focussing on the main topic of the conference "Transport and Mobility in the European Capital Cities for the improvement of living and working conditions". She reported on the responses to the questionnaire circulated to all member confederations.



The inter-relationship of issues is highlighted in the responses – mobility is related to air quality related to public health, energy, social inclusion, economy, innovation, IT and smart cities.

The questions were in two sections: facts on the capital cities and the involvement of trade unions.

- A wide range of transport modes
- Public transport is the answer
- 73% of European citizens live in urban areas (and rising)
- Problems – air and noise pollution, safety
- Cost of congestion: 1% of Europe's GDP
- 20 responses from 13 capitals
- More public ownership than private
- Unions are campaigning for public ownership in all modes
- 89% suffer congestion, 37% have additional charging to try to reduce congestion
- High percentage of poor air quality and noise – low union involvement in this area
- Unions raise wider issues: social inclusion, work/life balance, accessibility
- Unions cooperate with other stakeholders
- 95% of workers are covered by collective bargaining; 95% act on health and safety

Christina closed by thanking the ETUI for their support for the questionnaire (developing and summarising responses) and suggested we need to work on linking different modes, more active union involvement, and that ECTUN could share best practice.

*Case studies from four different capitals and the ETF were presented.*

**Sofia Podkrepa:** 1,600,000 people in Sofia; many housing complexes around the city.

# Sofia

It grows but does not age



1880 – first horse drawn bus, trains were later. Electricity and then 1901 the first constant tram line, 6 bus routes in 1935, trolleybuses in 1941, metro in 1998. Electric buses next year.

37% travel on public transport now. Bicycle use is rising as is walking. New metro lines are envisaged – emissions would fall and traffic reduce.

Challenges: harmful emissions, congestion, parking. There is a “green ticket” – when particle levels reach a certain point you can travel all day on public transport for 1 lev.

Negotiated 10% higher wages twice this year.

There is a lack of qualified bus drivers and the average age is rising. All electric buses will have air conditioning and wifi, and shortly all will have wheelchair access.

Metro – 2 lines and 48 stations. Building a third line with 21 stations – 16 stations at the end of this year and the rest in 2020. Will be driverless. 19,000 staff on the metro.

**Moscow MTUF:** 12 million population and a swift increase in car numbers so constructing a new transport system.

## Payment in public transportation by:

- ▶ a one-occasion ticket
- ▶ a special pre-paid card
- ▶ a card with a transport built-in chip
- ▶ a private cell phone.



- New roads, tunnels, junctions, bridges
- Smart system of road flow coordination
- Special bus lanes
- Bicycles, electric scooters, car sharing
- Parking zones and park&ride
- Taxis and social taxi services
- Pedestrian priority over road traffic

Many car drivers are opposed so it is a big job to convince them over the 10 years of the plan.

- 800km of new roads
- 320km bus lanes
- 188 new bus routes and night buses
- City rail system “Moscow Ring” from 2016 round the city
- 81 new metro stations
- 4,300 bicycles to hire
- Apps for payment

MTUF goals are to continue to participate and protect people’s living and working conditions. Working on taxi/Uber issues, and with disability organisations. In the next five years more development plans for trains, metro and more smart roads.

**Lisbon CGTP:** There are 18 municipalities in Lisbon divided by a river. 3% of Portugal’s land mass, 27% of the population. 5.4 million trips a day.

Main mode of transport is the car – nearly 60% - with an occupancy rate of 1.6%. Second is foot and bicycle – 24%. 16% public or collective transport.

Public transport costs are high per household. Economic activity is concentrated in Lisbon, with high housing costs and people dispersing from the city.

Policies have historically focused on roads and cars and we have problems of privatisation, particularly during the Troika years. Policies led to a decrease in the numbers using public transport. We now have improvements in ticketing and season tickets, trade union demonstrations, linking with users, against privatisation.

## 4 Results

### First important step

- The intention of privatising (in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon) the Subway/Metro Public Enterprise and the Bus Public Enterprise was defeated.
- These enterprises were not privatised;
- They are now municipal enterprises...

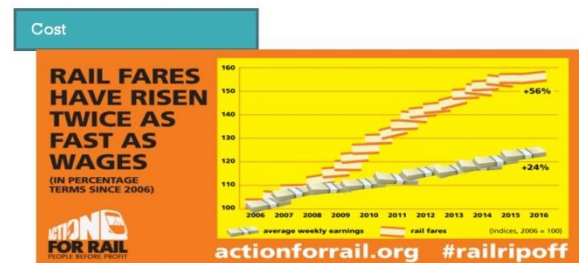
After 2015 there was a change in government and some important steps. First, the privatisation of the metro was defeated, second, a monthly season ticket covering all modes, is coming in in April. This was proposed by the trade unions, will cost 30 euros for the city, and 40 euros for the whole metropolitan area and will be a great improvement.

**London TUC LESE:** 9 million population, 270 tube stations. Mixed picture of ownership and management. A heavily unionised sector. People spend around 15% of income on transport. London now receives no national government funding to support its transport system and this led to job cuts.

There is a congestion zone with daily tariff that reduced traffic by 11% when first initiated, and a new ultra-low emission zone coming in April. Trade unions support these in principle but there are implications for taxis.

We have concerns about privatisation, but in spite of private running of buses have made progress on bus drivers' wages. On automation and artificial intelligence, there is increased surveillance of workers and Uber continues to give concern.

There are 1,000 taxi drivers in membership of the largest trade union. On the buses unions are campaigning for routes to be back in public delivery. Congestion impacts on bus use – average speed in London is 8mph (13kph). London Mayor froze fares in 2016. Hybrid buses are replacing diesel and there are some electric buses. Taxis are moving towards no emission/electric but there are currently insufficient charging points.



TUC  
Changing the world,  
one rail at a time

On the trains trade union membership is almost 100%. Housing costs mean people move out of London and a new cross London train line will open shortly (it's two years behind plan). It is intended to be driverless; unions say the driver's role is a safety critical one and are seeking upskilling to accompany new technology. We have improved cab environments with seating etc based on appropriate ergonomics.

**Rossana Obreshkova from the European Transport Workers' Federation** gave a presentation on a project "Digital Transformation and Social Dialogue in Urban Public Transport in Europe".

She said there were two dimensions from the trade union perspective: technologies that directly impact on transport workers, and technology that influences future mobility in cities.

On the impact on workers she discussed:



- There are technologies that replace people by robots/machines, and those that improve efficiency and provide a cost saving
- Automated buses have been tested in the Netherlands (6.4km) and in Greece (2.5km); self-driving shuttles trialled in France and Germany; self-driving taxis in Singapore and USA
- In 2017 – 53 fully automated metro lines in 36 cities
- Machines replacing ticket kiosks in stations; smart phones replacing tickets
- High tech predictive diagnosis and maintenance of buses
- Unions are looking for collective bargaining on the introduction of new technologies, retraining, protection of data, shorter hours and/or flexible working
- Inclusion of decent working conditions and just transformation in city transport plans and contracting

On the future mobility in cities she discussed:

- Maas – mobility as a service – such as ride-sharing, e-hailing, bike-sharing, on-demand car-sharing
- Ensure that collective public transport remains the backbone of urban mobility
- Disruptive business models such as Uber, Lyft replace regulated employment with precarious work and often not part of the collective urban mobility plan
- Unions are calling for transport authorities to ensure collective management of all modes; good legal framework conditions for workers in all modes; upgrading of skills and jobs

*Break*

Delegates broke up into language based workshops to discuss transport and mobility in the digital era. Delegates then reconvened to report back their priorities.

- 100% public investment to be ecologically friendly
- Ethical procurement throughout the whole chain

- Collective bargaining in all areas and on all issues
- A non-profit public service – affordable and subsidized
- Make users want to use by choice
- Fear digitization may lead to job losses
- Multi-modality and flexible – both in use and ticketing systems
- Parking places outside metro stations for workers to leave cars outside urban boundaries
- Service must be accessible and reliable, comfortable and not too crowded
- Unions must be responsible regarding procurement, preventing discrimination
- 18-60 years only payers – young and old free
- Flexible, cheap tickets for part-time workers
- Train workers for new systems
- Compact automatic bike parking
- Questionable technology at present on autonomous systems
- Stronger collaboration between trade unions in the public/private sectors and transport/non-transport sectors
- Class proof capitals' transport systems
- Where worker shortages improve pay and standards
- Public participation and transparency in developing transport systems
- Beware developing algorithms that aren't relating to reality
- Beware atomization of workers via new technology
- Legal definitions of those working for platform employers (workers) and the companies (transport providers)

## **Wednesday 20 March 2019**

**Christina Theochari** read out the revised Declaration “Vote for workers’ rights and democracy” which was approved by acclaim.

She then presented her report on the activities of the Permanent Committee over the year from Malta to Sofia.



The PC had organised, with ECTUN members, documents to mark International Women's Day, and also May Day (which incorporated the ETUC campaign for a pay rise), and World Day for Decent Work. The PC also sent a message of solidarity to Rome confederations supporting their work opposing privatisation of their public transport systems.

PC members had attended the ETUC/PERC meeting, the UIL conference – where those in attendance also had a meeting with Luca Visentini on ECTUN's work), the MTUF conference in Moscow, and the CGIL conference.

Reports and photos from the PC and from ECTUN members were posted on the ECTUN website [www.ectun.eu](http://www.ectun.eu)

ECTUN submitted an application to the Norway Grants Fund for a project on local development and reducing the number of working poor in our cities. At the time of the conference no response had been received.

Christina reported that Rome CGIL had covered the costs of the ECTUN website until 2020 and thanked them for this.

### **Helsinki 2020**

The 2020 conference will be hosted in Helsinki by SAK and the Permanent Committee will discuss the agenda over the next months. One possibility is United Nations Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The date of the conference will be confirmed in due course following discussion with

the ETUC, but it will be around the last week of February.

### **Belgrade 2021**

It was agreed that the 2021 conference will be hosted in Belgrade by CATUS.



### **Madrid 2022**

It was agreed that the 2022 conference will be hosted in Madrid by CC.OO and UGT.

## Closing remarks

**Christina** invited ECTUN members to add some information about their organisations to the ECTUN website. She will circulate a form to all organisations. We have a responsibility to cooperate with other networks and such information will be useful to progress this.

**Rome UIL:** reminded delegates that in the immediate future we have the 26 April demonstration in Brussels. UIL will draft a slogan and manifesto that can be circulated for translation and use.

**Madrid CC.OO:** also recognise Europe Day on 9 May as an opportunity for a joint action on topics in the Declaration.

**La Valletta GWU:** proposed thanks to the Permanent Committee for the work done over the past year, and also to our hosts in Sofia.

Christina closed by thanking the Mayor, the ETUI and the rest of the Permanent Committee and wished delegates a safe journey home.



*Please note: this is not a verbatim report. It aims to capture the essential discussion*



*and decisions taken.*

Megan Dobney  
Permanent Committee  
April 2019