Planning access for coach transport in Europe

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I. Case study: “a certain Member State”

i. Description of the legal framework (European, national, local)

ii. Lessons learned from European coach operators’ survey

II. IRU proposals

III. Conclusions
Case study: “a certain Member State”

**EU legal framework:**

- “A high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment”

- “Objective of reducing the negative impact of transport should be achieved without imposing disproportionate obstacles to the freedom of movement, in the interest of a sound economic growth and the proper functioning of the Internal Market”

**National legal framework:**

- “Access restrictions for proven and justified reasons of preventing pollution and protection of the artistic, environmental and natural heritage…”

- “… only after adoption of urban mobility plan or impact study”
Case study: “a certain Member State”

Features of the implemented measures at local level:

- **Type of access restriction:**
  - “Bus access fee” (cars exempted)
  - Up to 450 EUR per day

- **Compatibility with national framework:**
  - Absence of mobility plan or impact study
  - Covers entire urban area

- **Impact on foreign operators:**
  - Totally unpredictable system (overnight modifications)
  - Absence of online information

Assessment of the IRU:

- Measures go beyond what is necessary to attain the objectives pursued
- Measures perceived by coach operators as “safe revenue” for cities
Case study: “a certain Member State”

German coach operators:
- While total number of tours is steadily increasing, number of tours to this Member State is decreasing
- 78% reduced number of tours because of bus access fees
- 22% passed additional costs on customers

Austrian coach operators:
- 83% reduced number of tours because of bus access fees
- 17% passed additional costs to customers

French coach operators:
- Bus access fees represent up to 10% of total price (of the total service, including other tourist activities, can be up to 40% of the transport service)

Conclusions:
Impact either on coach companies or on travelers
Mostly non-nationals are affected

IRU complaint to the European Commission
IRU Recommendations

EU-wide guidelines on the introduction and operation of urban access restriction schemes

**Guiding principles:**
- Transparency
- Long-term planning

**Scope:**
- Conditions applicable to come to a decision on introducing access restrictions
- Conditions and procedures applicable to the implementation of access restrictions
- Operation and main features of access restrictions
Cooperation is key!

✓ Consultation:

To ensure acceptability of rules

✓ Information:

Local decisions have repercussions across the whole EU and beyond

Coach operators need legal and contractual certainty and predictability