

**By email**

Tassisti Artigiani Milanesi  
Via Rusoli 1  
20143 – MILANO  
Italy

AD/BR1040662/OKA

Brussels, 29 April 2016

**IRU Speech for TAM Convention on “The evolution of taxi services in metropolitan cities in Italy and the world”**

Dear Colleagues, Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the IRU, the largest global organisation representing the interests of commercial road transport businesses, and on behalf of our IRU Taxi Group, allow me to congratulate you on the organisation of this insightful event on “The evolution of the taxi services in the metropolitan cities in Italy and the world”.

It is a real pleasure for us to have TAM as a Member. We are extremely grateful to TAM, our member association here in Italy, for the outstanding opportunity you are giving every four years to Italian taxi businesses and stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities that the taxi industry is facing today.

IRU and its member Associations in the European Union are extremely concerned about the growing negative impact that the newly-created informal transport sector has already had on the professional taxi and hire-car with driver sector, and resulting challenges arising from the lack of a level playing field.

The taxi industry has embraced innovation and introduced a huge variety of apps, with a new taxi app launched everyday somewhere in the world to better serve customers. In 2014, IRU launched UpTop, the Global Taxi Network, which allows customers, through smartphone apps, to access high quality, legal and safe taxi services anytime, anywhere in the world, thus building a stronger and smarter taxi industry for our society. A level playing field for all service providers is crucial for such initiatives to develop and serve customers in an optimal way.

The IRU believes in a differentiation between the “real sharing economy” and illegal self-proclaimed “ride-sharing” for-reward transport intermediaries, which have a clear commercial character. The so-called Transport Network Companies, or commercial transport intermediaries,

should be subject to the same regulations as other for-reward hire car, taxi, bus and coach or road haulage services. If rules exist, as they do within commercial road transport, be that for taxis, hire car with drivers, buses, coaches or haulage, they should be respected by all actors in the market place. Actors disguising their commercial services as innovation under the term "sharing economy" should not be allowed to act outside the boundaries of existing law.

The IRU has a clear vision that businesses engaged in transport and mobility can compete fairly in an innovative, socially acceptable and environmentally-friendly manner.

While wishing you a fruitful discussion, I would like to invite you to the International IRU Taxi Business Reception and Forum to be held in Cologne on 4 & 5 November 2016 within the largest global taxi exhibition to meet your fellow taxi colleagues from all over the world, discuss and learn from them.

Yours sincerely,



Oleg Kamberski  
Head – Passenger Transport  
IRU Permanent Delegation to the EU