



MAYOR OF TALLINN

Tallinn, June 2012

Dear colleague

The City of Tallinn/Estonia has a challenging project to start providing free public transport to its residents from January 1, 2013. With this step, Tallinn will safeguard social cohesion of local community, granting equal mobility opportunities to all social strata. To many car drivers, free public transport will be a major incentive to switch to public transport thus reducing pollution and noise, and, in the long run, will improve living standards of all citizens.

To share ideas on this topic, the City of Tallinn will organize an international conference „**Free public transport in Tallinn – a brave step towards the green capital**“ in Tallinn on 26 – 27 October 2012. It gives me great pleasure to invite you and/or representatives of your city to take part in the conference and discuss in an open forum the challenges, problems and opportunities of such future-looking initiative.

The conference aims to bring together representatives of local and regional governments, practitioners and stakeholders to discuss possibilities and disseminate good practices on free public transport and sustainable solutions in urban transport areas. We intend to introduce the project of free public transport in Tallinn, share experiences of the cities that have already implemented free public transport (fully or partly) in urban areas, as well as generate discussion with other EU capitals and metropolises, partner cities of Tallinn and cities active in international organizations and networks that focus on transport and environmental issues. In addition to plenary sessions, discussion panels and networking opportunities, we will also offer a social programme to give our guests an opportunity to see the highlights of our beautiful city.

In addition to bringing the conference to your attention, we would like to ask about your specific interests on possible conference topics, as well as to invite the representative(s) of your municipality to make a presentation on the subject of the conference: sharing best practices, introducing past experiences/future views, disseminating results of thematic research, etc. For this, we ask you to fill out a preliminary feedback form at <http://freepublictransport.tallinn.ee>. A formal invitation with a more detailed conference programme and registration details will be posted on this website during the summer. Nevertheless, I very much hope that you will make a note of the conference in your schedule right away.

The Conference language is English and there is no conference fee. For more information on the content of the conference please contact Mr Allan Alaküla, Tallinn representative in EU (allan.alakyla@tallinnlv.ee.) and in organizational matters Mr Jonatan Heinap, Co-coordinator of International Relations (jonatan.heinap@tallinnlv.ee).

I am looking forward to meeting you in Tallinn.

Sincerely yours

Edgar Savisaar
Mayor of Tallinn