

### FIAA 2024 Information

<b>Event</b>	International Bus and Coach Trade Fair
<b>Edition</b>	Fifteenth
<b>Nature</b>	Professional
<b>Regularity:</b>	Biennial
<b>Location:</b>	Pavilions 8 and 10 - IFEMA MADRID
<b>Dates:</b>	22 to 25 October 2024 (Tuesday to Friday)
<b>Opening hours:</b>	Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 October: from 10 am to 7 pm Friday 25 October: from 10 am to 4 pm
<b>Space:</b>	38,700 m2 (Increase of 79%, compared to 2022)
<b>Participating Companies:</b>	94 participating companies (+ 34%)
<b>Participating countries(12):</b>	Germany Belgium China Spain Hungary Italy The Netherlands Poland United Kingdom Romania Sweden Turkey
<b>Sectors:</b>	Complete Vehicles - Chassis - Bodies - Components, Accessories and Technology - Maintenance - Transport Infrastructures - Associations, Organisations and Services
<b>Parallel Activities:</b>	Gala Dinner: 21 October (Including Minibus of The Year and Sustainable Bus Awards) in <b>Malinche</b> Press Days: 22 and 23 October Round table "What will the buses of the future be like in Madrid?", 23 October (Consorcio Regional Transportes Madrid, EMT and CONFEBUS)

	<p>DIREBUS tribute to David Moneo on the morning of 24 October in the <b>Auditorium Pavilion 8</b></p> <p>Exhibitor presentations in the <b>Auditorium Pavilion 8</b> (24 and 25 October). <b>Definition of presentations pending</b></p> <p>Test circuit (throughout the Fair) outside, parking at <b>Par Bay, Puerta Norte</b></p>
<b>Partners:</b>	ANETRA - ANTROP- ASCABUS - ATUC – CONFEBUS - DIREBUS -
<b>Organised by:</b>	IFEMA MADRID
<b>More information and Social Media:</b>	<p><a href="http://www.fiaa.ifema.es">www.fiaa.ifema.es</a></p> <p>Twitter: <a href="https://x.com/feriafiaa?lang=en">https://x.com/feriafiaa?lang=en</a></p> <p>Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/feriafiaa/">https://www.facebook.com/feriafiaa/</a></p> <p>LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/feria-fiaa?originalSubdomain=es">https://www.linkedin.com/company/feria-fiaa?originalSubdomain=es</a></p> <p><b>#FIAA2024</b></p>

### **FIAA 2024 showcases the power of a bus and coach industry with a clear projection abroad**

**A hundred companies, 85% of the market share, and all the sectoral associations will be attending the largest road passenger transport industry trade fair in southern Europe**

**Organised by IFEMA MADRID from 22 to 25 October 2024**

A total of 100 companies, including all the leading firms in the bus and coach sector, will meet from 22 to 25 October at the largest trade event in southern Europe. FIAA, the International Bus and Coach Trade Fair, will hold its fifteenth edition, organised by IFEMA MADRID. This brings together the latest innovations from vehicle manufacturers, coachbuilders and auxiliary industry and technology, in an event that will lend visibility to the definitive recovery of this industry, after years of slowdown.

The bus and coach sector is the backbone of mobility in Spain. According to the employers' organisation, CONFEBUS, 1 out of every 2 public transport journeys in Spain is made by bus. A sector made up of 2,787 operating companies, 44,852 public service buses, which annually transport 3,144 million passengers, connect 8,000 towns and cities, and spend around 800 million euros a year on fleet renewal. In addition, half of national production is earmarked by manufacturers for export, bearing testimony to the growing external projection of an industry that is highly committed to sustainability and efficiency.

This potential is on show in a new edition of FIAA, which has grown by 34% compared to the previous edition, with these hundred or so exhibitors bringing together 85% of the national market share. What's more, the exhibition area has taken on an extra pavilion to accommodate this high demand, representing 79% growth in exhibition space. The show will occupy pavilions 8 and 10, with a net exhibition area of 38,700 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, there will be business representation from 12 countries. There could be no better example of the growing international scale of the event and its wide recognition around the world, also contributing to the powerful programme of buyers from the main markets of interest to the national industry (coming from 30 countries), which has been implemented for the occasion.

Furthermore, all the associations of this sector are renewing their support to FIAA, as their Fair of reference: the Spanish Confederation of Bus Transport, CONFEBUS; the National Association of Coach Transport Entrepreneurs, ANETRA; the National Association of

Coach and Bus Manufacturers, ASCABUS; the Association of Urban and Metropolitan Public Transport, ATUC, and the Association of Coach Companies, DIREBUS. Internationally, the Portuguese National Association of Passenger Transport, ANTROP, the Belgian Federation of Bus and Coach Operators, and the Moroccan Association of Coachbuilders are also involved.

The companies participating in FIAA 2024 will be putting on show their capacity for innovation, with a broad showcase of innovations organised into the sectors of: Full Vehicles; Framework; Bodywork; Components, Accessories and Technology; Maintenance; Transportation Infrastructure; and Associations, Organisations and Services.

### . Activity programme

In recognition of the bus and coach industry's R&D efforts, FIAA will once again present its fourth **Minibus of The Year 2025** awards and the eighth **Sustainable Bus Awards**. They are set to take place on the eve of the Fair's opening, Monday, 21 October 2024, at 7 p.m. at a **Special Gala** that the Fair has specifically scheduled to afford special prominence to the sector's recovery. The juries for both awards are made up of a broad cross-section of leading trade magazines from around the world, further proof of the show's international scale.

FIAA 2024, set to be **inaugurated on Tuesday, 22 October at 11:00 by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, Óscar Puente**, will have an intense agenda of activities. As usual, a **Press Day** has been scheduled - a tour of a selection of exhibitors, who will present their latest innovations to the media - which on this occasion, due to the high demand for participation, will be divided into two days: all day on the 22nd and in the morning on Wednesday, the 23rd.

In turn, the Madrid Regional Transport Consortium; Empresa Municipal de Transportes de Madrid, EMT, and CONFEBUS, are organising the round table - on Wednesday, 23 October, at 12 noon - **"What will the buses of the future be like in Madrid?"**, where public transport in Madrid will be analysed.

Furthermore, the Association of Coach Companies, DIREBUS, has scheduled an **act of homage to the Director of FIAA, David Moneo**, for his dedication to the bus and coach sector. The event will take place on 24 October at 12:00 noon in the Auditorium of Pavilion 8.

In turn, the company E-RESCUE will present, as it did in 2022 and during the four days of the Fair, the **"Recreation of a Coach Rescue"**, (stand 8B10). This is a practical demonstration of a rescue with "Rescue Seats" designed to evacuate the injured, with the participation of firefighters and health workers from the Community of Madrid and the



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Madrid City Council. Rescue drills will be held on Tuesday 22nd at 11 a.m. and on Wednesday 23rd at 1 p.m. at stand 8-B10.

In turn, Carrilbus will hold open debates in the Auditorium of Pavilion 8, with the participation of the heads of the Departments of the sector from various autonomous communities. These will look at the issues of the current situation of urban and metropolitan mobility (buses, rail, taxis, vtc, bikes...); the current situation of interurban and rural mobility (bus lines, rail, on-demand transport, shared transport...); technologies, vehicles, payment systems and access to the different means of transport, and the present and future projects and plans of the Administration related with the improvement of mobility in these autonomous communities.

The companies on show will also have access to the Auditorium in Pavilion 8 for presentations of their products and new items.

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**More information at: [www.fiaa.ifema.es](http://www.fiaa.ifema.es)**

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### FIAA 2024 to host packed agenda of activities

**The FIAA Gala, to be held on the *Malinche* stage, with the award of the Minibus of the Year and Sustainable Bus Awards, Press Day and a day dedicated to the buses of the future are just some of the highlights.**

**Madrid, 3 October 2024.** In the context of a recovery in the road passenger transport sector the fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Trade Fair, FIAA 2024, comes to Madrid with the latest developments in vehicles and technology and an agenda packed with activities, cementing this event's status once again as the biggest in the sector in southern Europe. The event, organised by IFEMA MADRID, will take place at IFEMA from 22 to 25 October and will be **inaugurated by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, Oscar Puente, on Tuesday 22 at 11:00.**

On this occasion, the **FIAA GALA** will be held on Monday 21 at 19:00 on the stage of the *Malinche* musical. The gala will see the presentation of the fair's traditional awards for innovation in manufacturing: the Minibus of the Year 2025, presented together with *Autobuses & Autocares* magazine, and which is now in its fourth year, and the eight-category Sustainable Bus Awards for innovation in buses. The awards enjoy a high profile and recognition all around the world. After the presentation of the awards, attendees will enjoy some of the best performances from the musical *Malinche*, followed by a cocktail reception where professionals will have the chance to exchange their impressions and celebrate the thriving moment this important sector of the economy finds itself in.

Once inaugurated on Tuesday 22 October, **Press Day** will be held, which this year has been extended to the morning of Wednesday 23 October in light of the great demand for participation among exhibitor companies. Over the course of these two days, the press is invited to follow a tour of the stands of the leading companies, where they can learn first-hand from those companies' managers about the latest innovations to be launched on the market.

That same day, 23 October, at 12:00, the Madrid Regional Transport Consortium, the Municipal Transport Company (EMT) and CONFEBUS will analyse public transport in Madrid as part of a round-table discussion titled **"¿Cómo serán los autobuses del futuro en Madrid?" (What Will the Buses of the Future Look Like in Madrid?).**

On Thursday 24 October, at 12:00, the Association of Bus Companies, DIREBUS, will host a tribute to the **Director of the FIAA, David Moneo**, for his dedication to the bus and coach sector over the years. This will take place in the Auditorium in Hall 8.



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The fair will also see the **recreation of a bus emergency rescue** by the company E-RESCUE, (stand 8-B10), a practical demonstration of a rescue using “Lifesaver Seats” designed for the evacuation of victims of accidents and with the participation of the Madrid Fire Brigade and healthcare workers from the Region of Madrid and Madrid City Council. The rescue simulations will be performed on Tuesday 22 at 11:00 and Wednesday 23 at 13:00 at stand 8-B10.

Over all four days of the Fair, from 22 to 25 October 2024, exhibiting companies will have access to the Auditorium of Hall 8 for product launches and updates.

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### **IFEMA MADRID brings together the bus and coach industry at the FIAA 2024 Gala Dinner**

**The event is set to take place at 7 p.m. on 21 October 2024 in the MALINCHE auditorium**

**During the gala, the prestigious international Minibus of the Year and Sustainable Bus Awards will be presented**

FIAA 2024, the International Bus and Coach Trade Fair, will mark the launch of a very special edition, its fifteenth, with a Gala, bringing together the passenger transport industry in this great celebration. Operators, manufacturers, fleet operators, officials from the various administrations (including the transport consortia of different autonomous communities), the media... will all meet up at IFEMA MADRID, the organiser of the largest trade event in this sector in southern Europe, on the eve of its opening, Monday 21 October, at 7 p.m. The event will open its doors the following day on 22 October, right through to 25 October, showcasing the potential of a sector that has fully returned to post-pandemic normality.

It will be a very special Gala for which a unique setting has been chosen, the auditorium of the musical show "Malinche" by Nacho Cano, successfully starting its third season this September, and which will offer a selection of the most recognisable pieces from this spectacular musical.

The traditional Minibus of the Year and Sustainable Bus Awards will also be on show during the event, which will once again showcase the best international profile of the show, recognising the innovative efforts of the bus and coach industry. With this in mind, both awards have juries boasting great professional prestige and a clearly international dimension.

After this awards ceremony and the staging of the best of "Malinche", those attending the FIAA 2024 Gala can enjoy a relaxed, convivial atmosphere at the Gala dinner.

With this event, FIAA is seeking to celebrate the recovery of a sector that has finally overcome its recent difficulties, as will be seen in an edition, which will break the participation record, and which will bring together the main agents of this industry, including leading firms, associations, administrations and professionals.





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The trade exhibition will be accompanied by an intense concurrent agenda of activities and conferences, set to kick off on the first day, 22 October, with the Press Day, a tour of the new products at the Fair, led by some of the main participating companies.

**Note: to attend the event, an invitation from the Fair is required**

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### **FIAA to choose the best European mini bus 2024**

#### **By carrying out the Minibus Euro Test to take place in the days prior to the fair**

Autobuses y Autocares, in collaboration with FIAA, will hold the fourth edition of the Minibus of the Year 2025 award, whose winner will be announced at the FIAA 2024 GALA, set to take place on the eve of the opening of the show on 21 October at IFEMA MADRID. In the days before the staging of the 15th International Bus and Coach Fair, a qualified jury made up of 24 professionals from the same number of European countries will evaluate the 6 participating vehicles from 6 European brands, carrying out the Minibus Euro Test 2024 on a circuit set up in the surroundings of the fair facilities.

This new edition, aimed at urban transport minibuses, features the Romanian company Aveuro, with a 100% electric vehicle based on the new Mercedes-Benz Sprinter; the eUrban model, from the Catalan company Car-Bus.net; the e-B6 minibus, also electric, from the French company Bluebus, marketed in Spain by Indca; the Mercedes-Benz Reform-S City, from the Hungarian company Inter Traction Electrics; the eCentro electric minibus, from the Turkish manufacturer Otokar, and the City 75 Electric, developed by the German company Tremonia Mobility.

This participation will bring together a large international presence, with participating vehicles built by the industry from various countries such as Romania, France, Turkey, Hungary, Germany and Spain. FIAA is thus the ideal venue for both the Minibus Euro Test and the awarding of the Minibus of the Year trophy.

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### **FIAA 2024 rewards innovation and sustainability in public transport with its Sustainable Bus Awards**

**The awards will be presented together with the Minibus of the Year awards at the FIAA Gala on 21 October at 7 p.m. in IFEMA MADRID**

**Madrid, 24 September 2024** - The fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Fair, FIAA 2024, organised by IFEMA MADRID, from 22 to 25 October, will be the venue for the eighth SUSTAINABLE BUS AWARDS, which recognise advances in innovation and sustainability in public transport. The presentation of the awards in its three categories (Urban, Intercity and Coach) will take place at the FIAA 2024 Gala, to be held on the eve of the opening of the event, on 21 October, at 7 p.m. on the stage of the musical "Malinche" at IFEMA MADRID. The event will also be the venue for the presentation of the other major European-wide award, the MINIBUS OF THE YEAR.

In an environment imbued with growing awareness and responsibility for sustainable transport, the Sustainable Bus Awards have positioned themselves as an international platform that recognises the efforts of bus and coach manufacturers to achieve the highest vehicle performance in the areas of environmental, safety, comfort and technological innovation. The awards recognise the best models in the Urban, Intercity and Coach categories.

#### **. A holistic approach to sustainability**

The Sustainable Bus Awards carry out a broad assessment of sustainability in public transport. In addition to emission reductions, the jury also considers the wider impact of vehicles on the environment and urban mobility, and their ability to reduce their carbon footprint whilst simultaneously moving forward in other standards. Other determining factors are energy efficiency, safety features, design, passenger and driver comfort and the use of smart technologies. The sustainability of the entire vehicle life cycle is also examined, including the percentage of recyclable components and the use of alternative fuels such as hydrogen, electricity and liquefied natural gas.

The Sustainable Bus Awards serve as an important benchmark for the industry, encouraging manufacturers to keep innovating in terms of environmental responsibility. The awards not only recognise current achievements but they also inspire continued progress towards a cleaner and more sustainable future for public transport.

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### Finalists in the Urban Category: Improving Urban Transport:

In the Urban category, the focus is on buses designed for cities, where electrification, low noise levels and efficiency in urban environments are key. The finalists have a range of technologies that help reduce pollution and noise in urban areas.

#### **The finalists are:**

1. IVECO E-Way H2
2. SOLARIS Urbino 12 Electric
3. MERCEDES-BENZ eCitaro Fuel Cell
4. VDL Citea LF-181
5. BYD eBUS B12

### Intercity finalists: a new standard for medium-haul travel

Medium-haul travel, a key part of regional mobility, is undergoing a transformation with buses that prioritise sustainability without compromising comfort and performance. The finalists in the Intercity category demonstrate a new approach to regional travel, incorporating alternative energy sources and green technologies.

#### **The finalists are:**

1. MAN Lion's City 12 E LE
2. OTOKAR eTerrito
3. SCANIA Castrosua LE BEV
4. SETRA Multiclass 515
5. VOLVO 8900 Electric

### Finalists in the Coach category: Sustainability in long-haul travel:

In the Coach category, the finalists aim to set a new standard for long-haul travel. Comfort, safety and efficiency define these vehicles, balancing green technologies with an optimised travel experience.

#### **The finalists are:**

1. YUTONG T12 E
2. ISUZU Nuevo Voltio



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3. VOLVO 9700DD
4. SCANIA Touring LNG/LBG HD

The jury, made up of a total of 10 professional journalists, representing the main leaders in the bus and coach industry, from 10 different countries, is responsible for reviewing all the competing models, assessing the overall performance and innovations of the vehicles.

**For further information about the awards and to follow the progress of the finalists, visit:**

[SustainableBusAwards.com](https://SustainableBusAwards.com)

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**More information at: [www.fiaa.ifema.es](http://www.fiaa.ifema.es)**

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## Press day

### FIAA 2024 to present the latest developments in the bus and coach industry at its Press Day

**On 22 - 23 October 2024**

IFEMA MADRID is set to organise an extensive Press Presentations Programme as part of the fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Trade Fair, FIAA 2024, which takes place from 22 to 25 October. This year, given the wide range of proposals and solutions put forward by the participating brands, the programme will take place on 22 and 23 October.

#### **Tuesday, 22 October:**

9:00: **Iveco** (Stand 10C05); at 8:30, coffee

9:30: **Daimler Buses** (10C06)

10:00: **Temsa** (10D06)

10:30: **Otokar** Somauto (10C12)

11:00: **Unvi** (10C16)

11:30: **Indcar** (10C13)

12:00: **Isuzu** Anadolu (10C18)

12:30: **Volvo** (10C15)

13:00: **Irizar** (+ cocktail) - 10C11 -

15:00: **Karsan** (10C22)

15:30: **Solaris** (8B07)

16:00: **Ferqui** (8B04)

16:30: **Beulas** (8B03)

17:00: **Carbus.net** (8B05)

17:30: **King Long** (8B09)

#### **Wednesday, 23 October:**

11:30: **Yutong** (10E34)

12:00: **Alfabus - Cordial Bus** (8B06)

12:30: **JMB** (10D08)

13:00: **E-RESCUE** (8B10)

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### **FIAA 2024: public transport in Madrid, the main protagonist at the Fair**

**The Exhibition will host a round table on 23 October, co-organised by the Consorcio Regional de Transportes de Madrid (*Regional Transport Consortium of Madrid*) and the EMT (*Municipal Transport Company of Madrid*)**

Public transport in Madrid will take pride of place at the fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Fair, FIAA 2024, thanks to the Regional Transport Consortium of Madrid, CRTM, and Municipal Transport Company of Madrid, EMT, which are organising a round table with the participation of the CONFEBUS employers' organisation, the Spanish Confederation of Bus Transport. The meeting, entitled "What will the buses of the future be like in Madrid?", is to be held on 23 October at 12:00 noon as part of the exhibition, organised by IFEMA MADRID at its facilities, which is set to take place from 22 to 25 October 2024.

Through this meeting, the Regional Transport Consortium of Madrid; Municipal Transport Company of Madrid, EMT, and CONFEBUS are seeking to highlight the importance of sustainable mobility, promoting dialogue with the bus manufacturers' sector and with the rest of the sectors involved in the adaptation of buses to the needs of urban public transport.

The aim of the conference is to put on show the latest advances in Madrid's public buses (propulsion technology, recharging technology, on-board technology, ticketing and payment systems, automation sensors etc.), what needs they meet and how they are expected to evolve.

The day is set to turn into a key meeting point for all stakeholders involved in urban mobility, promoting an integrated, collaborative approach to the current and future challenges we face.

The CRTM, the EMT and CONFEBUS would like to invite all interested parties to attend this event, which promises to be highly relevant for the future of public transport in our region. Collaboration between institutions and companies is more crucial than ever to guarantee accessible, efficient and sustainable public transport for all Madrilenians.

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### **FIAA 2024 hosts an extensive programme of presentations from participating brands**

**At the Hall 8 Auditorium, IFEMA MADRID, from 23 to 25 October 2024**

The fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Trade Fair, FIAA 2024, will be held at IFEMA MADRID from 22 to 25 October. This edition boasts an auditorium in Hall 8 of the event, so exhibitors can give their presentations. The programme will be held from 23 to 25 October.

The morning conference, on the future of buses in Madrid, hosted by EMT and the Regional Transport Consortium, will be held on Wednesday 23 October at 12.00 p.m. After this, at 4 p.m., exhibitors' presentations will start, with ZF, on new solutions for the city bus, followed by Masats (4.30 p.m.), on universal accessibility leadership in passenger transport; Karsan Automotive (5.30 p.m.), which will show the first and only autonomous bus that transports passengers in open traffic, Karsan e-ATAK, and at 5.30 p.m. Moveris will give a talk entitled 'From the steering wheel to the Smartphone: How Technology Has Revolutionised the Automobile Sector'.

The programme will continue on Thursday 24 October with morning and afternoon sessions, starting with a round table discussion by the Commercial Vehicle Aftermarket Club, together with ZF Aftermarket Iberia and Robert Bosch Spain - 10.15 a.m. - on 'Efficient and cost-effective maintenance of bus and coach fleets'. The morning session will continue with a talk from Hanover Displays at 11.15 a.m. entitled "Evolution and current trends in passenger information systems". After the tribute to the Director of FIAA, David Moneo at 12 p.m. by the DIREBUS association, on the same stage Daimler Buses Spain (12.30 p.m.), will put forward its Solutions to overcome the challenges of electric mobility; Videoacoustic (1 p.m.) will offer the Intelligent Active Safety solution, and at 1.30 p.m. Pablo Riera from MOSTT will raise the hot topic of Truths and Myths About Anti-start Breathalysers.

In the afternoon, from 3.30 p.m. onwards, the topic on the table will be 'Small scale electrification: the role of the minibus in the future of urban and suburban transport', by Tremonia Mobility; at 4.30 p.m GMV will present ITS Solutions for Sustainable and Efficient Mobility: Innovations for the Future of Coach and Bus Transport; at 5 p.m., International Hispacold will focus on predictive maintenance of air conditioning, and Cojali will bring the day to a close at 5.30 p.m., delving into predictive maintenance, a new paradigm for the bus industry.

The programme will end on the last day of FIAA 2024, Friday, 25 October, with meetings on the Busmatick Group's BUSPAY payment method, at 10.30 a.m.; the end of the useful life of





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a bus, by dMov (11 a.m.); GSR regulations and the future of bus/coach safety, by Prevent Group (11.30 a.m.); the presentation of the Velyen factory specialising in the manufacture of specialist after-sales lifts by Gaspar Degianma (12 p.m.); how to build customer loyalty with Nunsys Batonroute software (12.30 p.m.); an interview open to the public with the CEO of Sistema ADAS, Elías Izquierdo, on the new safety and driving assistance systems for buses, conducted by the specialist magazine Carrilbus (1 p.m.), and concluding at 1.30 p.m. with the outstanding features of Alcoa's wheels.

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### **FIAA 2024 confirms the bus and coach sector's full recovery and its commitment to sustainable mobility**

**Over 50% of Spanish bus and coach production is for export**

**At IFEMA MADRID, from 22 to 25 October 2024**

A firm commitment to sustainable mobility, a great capacity for innovation and a strong presence on foreign markets are the main features of the road passenger industry, set to be represented by its leading firms and associations at the fifteenth edition of the International Bus and Coach Fair, FIAA 2024. The event, organised by IFEMA MADRID from 22 to 25 October, will once again confirm its reputation as the best commercial and business platform for a fully recovered sector in southern Europe.

The employers' association **CONFEBUS, the Spanish Bus Transport Confederation**, present at FIAA for yet another year, also believes in the optimistic outlook for this important economic segment, in line with its figures. According to the Confederation, bus transport, the main backbone of mobility in Spain, as 1 out of every 2 public transport journeys is made by bus, is made up of 2,787 transport operating companies authorised by the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, and 44,852 public service buses (data from July 2024). Every year it transports 3,144 million passengers - Source: INE-; it connects 8,000 towns via a 75,000 km road network and it spends around 800 million euros a year on fleet renewal.

The bus is a more sustainable means of transport than others, as it takes the place of an average of 20 private vehicles - in school transport too, as 17,500 coaches transport 220 million pupils a year - thereby cutting down on CO2 emissions. It also stands out as the most economical, safest and flexible means of road mobility, allowing access to places that would otherwise be cut off.

What's more, the coach is essential for the development of sustainable tourism in our country, making a decisive contribution to the creation of wealth and employment, particularly in regions and towns for which the tourism sector is the main source of income.

#### **Increase in registrations**

With regard to vehicle registrations in the sector, it can be seen that in the first half of this year there have been a total of 2,746 new registrations of buses, coaches and minibuses, a year-on-year increase of 28.98%, according to the **National Association of Coach Transport Entrepreneurs, ANETRA**.

Furthermore, according to the same association and in terms of passenger demand for road transport, there has been a widespread increase in passengers so far in 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year (11.9% in urban transport, 12.4% in interurban transport and 1.7% in regular transport for special and occasional use).

ANETRA also analyses these data, comparing them with pre-pandemic data, in order to better assess the recovery of the sector, noting that the supply data (number of operators in the sector) shows that the trend of business concentration in the sector continues. Mergers and takeovers mean that there are ever fewer operators and they are larger. Bearing in mind the historical data provided by the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, in 2000 there were 4,490 authorised companies, with an average fleet of less than 8 vehicles per company; in 2012, there were 3,649 companies with an average fleet of 11 vehicles, and we have reached 2024 with 2,787 companies with an average of 16 buses.

As far as passenger demand data for public road transport is concerned, this has not recovered equally in all segments. So, although demand figures for urban and interurban public transport have not only recovered but have even outperformed the 2019 data, in other areas such as regular transport for special and occasional use, there is still some ground to be made up before returning to the 2019 figures. However, in absolute terms it can be said that these last two years, 2023 and so far in 2024, have turned in "good economic data" for the sector. Various reports by the social observatory of transport indicate that the turnover of the bus transport sector grew by 15% during 2023, attaining 3.5 billion euros. These are good data, although still slightly below the pre-pandemic level.

### **Commitment to foreign markets, safety and the environment**

In turn, the **National Association of Bodywork and Bus Manufacturers, ASCABUS**, which groups together all Spanish manufacturing companies and is also participating in FIAA 2024, highlights the great international prestige that Spanish companies continue to enjoy, to the extent that exports of the national industry worldwide exceed 50% of its production (in the case of the members of this association, they exceed 57% of their production). Furthermore, Spanish operators have made great endeavours to purchase products manufactured in Spain, thereby contributing to the enrichment of the national economy.

According to ASCABUS, this year will be marked by the recovery of industrial activity, new technological developments in safety, environmental protection and appropriate attention to user needs.

As far as innovation is concerned, ASCABUS stresses that the coming into force of the new general safety regulation R(EU) 2019/2144 has entailed the major technological



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transformation of our buses, providing them with new safety measures which, through the well-known ADAS (advanced driving assistance systems), prevent or reduce the damage caused to the most vulnerable road users. This transformation has entailed major investments by Spanish factories in the fields of engineering, production and approvals.

There is a firm commitment to the environment in the sector, and in this regard, ASCABUS companies are no exception. They develop their products in compliance with current European regulations on pollutant emissions, and they are committed to technology based on electromobility and other clean energies. The use of all types of clean energy is essential in order to achieve the goals set by the European Commission, defending the technological neutrality of our buses. ASCABUS is a founding member of the "Neutral in Motion Circle", created by the main automotive associations with a view to promoting the decarbonisation of our cities. The Spanish car bodywork industry is continuously developing its products technologically, making it a world leader.

**SOURCES: CONFEBUS, ANETRA, ASCABUS**

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More information at: [www.fiaa.ifema.es](http://www.fiaa.ifema.es)

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