Act on Transport Services

Transport market regulations will be brought together under the Act on Transport Services. The aim of the project is to promote new service models and to better meet the needs of users.

Background

Digitalisation of transport systems and services is taking place around the world. Digital information, communications and automation will be essential in all transport operations.

In line with the Programme of the Finnish Government, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the transport authorities will take all opportunities offered by digitalisation to develop the existing and new mobility services. In order to make this possible, transport market legislation must be renewed.

Objectives

Legal provisions on transport market will be brought together under the Act on Transport Services. The aim of the project is to support new service models and to better meet the needs of users. Further aims are to review the transport system as a whole, make market access easier and promote the interoperability of the different parts of the transport system.

The Transport Services Act will promote the introduction of new technologies, digitalisation and innovative business concepts. Open data and the better use of data resources will help generate new business ideas. At the same time regulation and the operators’ administrative burden will be reduced.

Implementation

The preparation process for the Act on Transport Services is transparent and is being carried out in close interaction with stakeholders. For example, there will be consultations under different themes with the public and with stakeholders such as transport associations, companies and communities, service user representatives and authorities. A monitoring group has been appointed to support the preparations for the Act.

Stage I: Improving the service markets

Emphasis is on road transport. The provisions of the Public Transport Act, Taxi Transport Act and the Act on Transport of Goods on the Road will be harmonised. Market access and functionality will be improved. Legislation restricting competition will be removed and lighter public guidance introduced. Combining passenger and freight transport will be made possible.

Stage I of the Act on Transport Services was approved on 24 May 2017. The Act will enter into force mainly on 1 July 2018, the provisions concerning the promotion of new electronic services on 1 January 2018.

Stage II: Regulation on driver training, professional qualifications and transport registers will be renewed

New teaching techniques will be supported and possibilities for moving from training requirements to
knowledge requirements are being looked into. National provisions adding to European Union requirements on demonstrating professional competence will be critically reviewed. Regulations concerning transport registers will be brought together and renewed in accordance with the objectives set in the Government Programme.

Draft government proposal for consultation in April 2017, government proposal to Parliament in summer 2017

Stage III: Remaining provisions

Provisions that have not been covered in earlier stages. It will be ensured that objectives with regard to the transport system and digital services are comprehensively covered in the Act on Transport Services.

Draft government proposal for consultation in June 2018, government proposal to Parliament in December 2018

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