

To Finnish Transport Minister & Transport Ministry

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Taxify is a leading taxi and ridesharing application in Northern-Eastern Europe with over 500,000 customers in 10 countries. Taxify has tens of thousands of Finnish customers, who have used Taxify services mainly in Oulu, Finland and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Taxify Oy strongly supports proposed amendments towards unified Transport Code in Finland and is looking forward to get those legal changes activated as soon as possible.

1) Taxi services

- Taxify supports easier requirements for taxi licenses and giving taxi license for operator, not being car specific.
- Current limit of fixed amount of regional taxi licenses should be removed and Taxify supports open competition, so new service providers could enter the market.
- Zone based operations decreases the efficiency of taxi services, where drivers need to drive long distances without customers to return their “home zone”. We support effective and open taxi market.
- Easier requirements for taxi drivers and using navigation systems enable much more people to become taxi drivers and enable fair competition.
- Taxi pricing - currently all taxis are driving with maximum price level allowed and any companies driving on lower tariffs would get “bad reputation” among taxi association and industry. This kind of mindset and activities prohibit fair competition and will not motivate service providers to become more efficient, lower their prices to get more rides.

2) Small Scale Transport Operations & Ridesharing

- Every barrier to enter the market will decrease sharing economy market potential hugely, so Taxify supports minimum barriers with reasonable quality standards.
- We suggest the law sets minimum quality standards for ridesharing platform operators to validate drivers (no criminal records, drunk driving or serious traffic violations; active drivers license; active car insurance and inspection) before activating them. Platform should also have feedback system, so customers could easily give feedback after each ride. Its important to set basic quality standards to avoid situations where new service providers would possibly ruin good reputation of ridesharing as a concept.
- Proposed 10,000 Euros would be a reasonable limit for providing services without special licenses. Estimated average ride could cost 12-15 Euros, person could make $833\text{€} / 15\text{€} = 55$ rides each month.

Taxify can invite our tens of thousands of Finnish customers to support proposed changes.

Martin Villig
Member of the Board, Taxify Oy