Collaborative Economy Suspended: The Legal Challenges of Uber and BlaBlaCar in Spain and the EU. Job Precarity? Unfair Competition?

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The collaborative economy is generating a new paradigm of commercial interactions and innovative business models at the core of the ICT. Are Uber and BlaBlaCar just intermediary enterprises between users and providers of transport services? Are they actually companies that take advantage of legal ambiguities to execute their economic activities at a lower cost? Are the drivers of these platforms in fact undercover workers? Why is it so difficult to adapt these economic innovations to European laws? What can we do about that? When analyzing the legal framework at both national and EU levels, Uber and BlaBlaCar find themselves in two very different situations. As they operated when this research was finished, Uber would actually be a transportation company (not a technological intermediary as it claimed) and its drivers would actually be undercover workers; BlaBlaCar, on the other hand, is not a transportation company nor are its drivers workers.

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