



Warsaw 24.03.2020

20/00203/SEK/JBU

Adina Vălean,
Commissioner for Transport

Dear Madame Commissioner,

The COVID19 pandemic has already had a significant negative impact on the whole European economy including the road transport sector. Road transport operators are not only experiencing reduction of their activities, loss of financial resources but also huge administrative burden due to various regulations introduced by Member States.

The Association of International Road Transport Carriers in Poland welcomes steps already undertaken by the European Commission. We very much appreciate introduction of more flexible rules on state aid which gives Member States right to grant financial support towards companies facing difficulties and losing their liquidity.

We also welcome "Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services", which have been adopted unanimously by the European Council. **However, we are deeply concerned that road transport companies are still affected by lack of harmonisation and coordination among Member States.** Operators and drivers are facing different national rules with regards to border management such as closure of a number of crossing points, requirement of various employment and medical certificates, obligatory quarantine or other administrative obligations. This leads to congestion on borders, delays transport of strategic goods as well as worsens employment condition of our drivers. **We do appreciate publication of Guidelines on the implementation of Green Lanes. However, we call on the Commission to monitor closely the situation in Member States, make sure that these guidelines are implemented as soon as possible and if needed take necessary actions.**

The same applies unfortunately to driving and resting time rules. Flexibility has been introduced by many Member States however rules differ from country to country. Designation of contact points and creation of a platform with up to date information is not enough to solve this problem. **Therefore, we call on the European Commission to encourage Member States to further harmonise driving and resting time rules. We also call on the Commission to evaluate carefully the situation on parking slots and gas station. Access to sanitary infrastructure as well as to restaurants and shops for professional drivers has to be guaranteed and it is hands of the European Commission to execute this.**

The Coronavirus has already affected badly economic situation of the road transport sector. According to a survey carried out by the Association of International Road Transport Carriers in Poland 90 percent of questioned operators have already experienced a significant drop in the number of transport operations carried. One in four operators has experienced a drop by 30 percent. There are also operators with 80 percent drop of activity.

CZŁONEK IRU / International Road Transport Union member

Address: Al. Jana Pawła II 78, 00-175 Warszawa; **Correspondence Address:** 00-198 Warszawa 80, skr. poczt 1;
T: (+48 22) 536 10 00; **Fax:** (+48 22) 536 10 35; **NIP:** 522-000-21-10; **KRS:** 109043

www.zmpd.pl

It is obvious that the consequences of COVID19 pandemic will shape the economic condition of the sector for months if not years to come. This extraordinary situation should be taken into account by the EU institutions with regards to the Mobility Package I. We are aware that the future of the legislative process lies now in hands of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. **However, we call on the European Commission to broaden the scope of the targeted impact assessment of the Mobility Package and evaluate also impact of the COVID19 pandemic. Any future regulation of the road transport sector should take into account the current and future economic situation of the sector and the principles of the Mobility Package require urgent reconsideration and evaluation against new economic context!** The European Commission cannot allow a situation in which the Mobility Package will further negative affect the road transport sector.

Dear Madame Commissioner,

We would like to thank the Commission once again for taken actions and measures. These are highly appreciated and needed. However still a lot remains to be done. Without further harmonisation and coordination we will not be able to deliver goods on time and protect our drivers.

We count on your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Buczek



President of the Association
of International Road Transport
Carriers in Poland

CZŁONEK IRU / International Road Transport Union member

Address: Al. Jana Pawła II 78, 00-175 Warszawa; Correspondence Address: 00-198 Warszawa 80, skr. poczt 1;
T: (+48 22) 536 10 00; Fax: (+48 22) 536 10 35; NIP: 522-000-21-10; KRS: 109043

www.zmpd.pl