

To the kind attention of:

Mr. Antonio TAJANI, President of the European Parliament

Mr. Manfred WEBER, Chairman of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Mr. Udo BULLMANN, President of Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Mr. Syed KAMALL and Mr. Ryszard LEGUTKO, Co-Chairmen of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Mr. Guy VERHOFSTADT, President of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Mrs. Gabriele ZIMMER, President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Mrs. Rebecca HARMS and Mr. Philippe LAMBERTS, Co-Presidents of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Mr. Nigel FARAGE, President of the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group

Mr. Nicolas BAY and Mr. Marcel de GRAAFF, Co-Presidents of the Europe of Nations and Freedom Group

Subject: Joint Letter to the CoP urging to postpone the Mobility Package 1

The undersigned associations representing Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Romania are highly concerned that the Mobility Package 1 is still being considered to be tabled to the plenary at very end of the current political cycle leaving no time for adequate legal and socio-economic assessment.

Not only the future of road transport, but also millions of transport-related jobs in EU Member States (hereinafter – EU MS) as well as both the economic growth and competitiveness of the Union itself is at stake. Unfortunately, the profound divisions between East-West, New-Old and Periphery-Centre have put the negotiations into extreme uncertainty and chaotic decision making process with number of unjustified way out scenarios.

The current Mobility Package 1, if adopted without serious consideration, will have significantly negative impact on both European citizens and businesses. Specifically, the package includes new restrictions on access to international road transport markets, which will increase the cost of operations for the hauliers and will affect the overall European economy accordingly introducing new prices for transport services as well as goods. Certainly, there will be less competition in Europe as road transport operators will have to turn to specific national markets with less possibilities to carry goods between different EU MS.

Furthermore, the proposals will distort the Single Market, fair competition and level playing field as operators established in EU MS of high industrial capacity as well as located closer to the major EU goods flows will find themselves in significantly better business environment compared to hauliers from the peripheral and less industrially developed EU MS.

Most importantly, there is a very high risk that the goals of the social agenda will not be delivered by the package and the working conditions of the drivers will not improve. Drivers from the same EU MS performing cross-trade and bilateral transport will not be on an equal footing in terms of social entitlements and remunerations. Some of them, employed in peripheral EU MS, will also be forced to drive thousands of kilometres back home and spend weeks on wheels only to comply with the rule of return home of trucks. One of the key issues for the benefit of the drivers – the requirement for EU MS to deploy the necessary

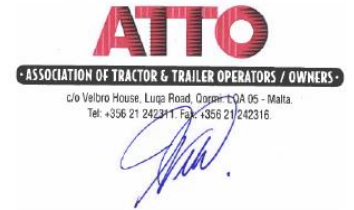
infrastructure along their road network to ensure driver's right for a decent rest – is still being questioned, which is an example of how discussions are taking the wrong direction.

We, the European hauliers, urge the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament not to take a risk of the politicised last minute vote at the Plenary with the completely unpredictable outcomes. We urge to postpone the negotiations on the Mobility Package 1 to the next European Parliament in order to make legally, economically and socially substantiated decisions for all Europeans.

AEBTRI
The Association of the Bulgarian Enterprises for
International Transport



ATTO
Association of Tractor and Trailer Operators/Owners



ERAA
The Association of Estonian International Road Carriers



LATVIJAS AUTO
The Association of Latvian Road Carriers



LINAVA
The Lithuanian National Road Carriers Association



MKFE
The Hungarian Road Transport Association



UNNTR
The National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania



ZMPD
Association of International Road Transport Carriers in Poland

