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European Commission
Mrs. Adina Ioana VĂLEAN, Commissioner for Transport

Ref.: clarification request - Movement of truck drivers and seasonal workers to/from EU Member States from/to Romania by charter coach lines

Dear Commissioner,



The National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania – UNTRR, as the professional and employers' association representing Romanian companies operating road transport of goods and passengers is highly concerned of the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on road transport and on the movement of truck drivers and seasonal workers in the European Union.

Hereby, we address you with the kind request to clarify the means of transport allowed for professional truck drivers and seasonal workers when travelling to/from EU Member States from/to Romania and in particular to also clearly allow their travel by charter coach lines.



In the **Green Lanes Communication of 23 March**, the EC set up the principle of the free movement of transport workers which was supported by the EU Heads of **States and Governments in their joint statement of 26 March**. As part of the overall effort to keep essential transport flows moving, EC urged the Member States to take action to ensure the free movement within the EU of all workers involved in international transport in all transport modes and stated that workers should not be prevented from crossing an internal border in order to carry out their transport functions.

On 30.03.2020, the Commission has issued **practical guidance to ensure the free movement of critical workers**, like those working in the health care and food sectors (agriculture), who should be able reach their workplace. Together with the Guidance on the implementation of the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU, these guidelines address practical concerns of citizens and companies affected by the measures taken to limit the spread of the coronavirus, as well as of national authorities implementing the measures.

Although the EC Communications and guidelines are crucial for ensuring that goods and essential services continue to flow in our internal market and consequently for ensuring the right treatment of people who do have to travel, it is not clear which are the means of transport allowed by each EU member State for the movement of critical workers.

UNTRR has addressed several EU Member States, including Romanian Government with this request for clarification. Currently the only mean of transport accepted for the



critical workers are the charter plane lines, while the charter coach lines are not allowed (in Romania) or it is unclear if they are allowed in other EU Member States, despite the fact that coaches are often preferred by many companies in Romania for organizing the movement of employed staff and seasonal workers, given the affordable price, as well as the safety, quality and flexibility of the services offered. In this regard, we mention that many freight transport companies in Romania prefer the coaches or the 8 + 1 seats vehicles to organize the movement of Romanian professional drivers in order to pick up the trucks located in other EU Member States, thus ensuring continued operation of international road transport in the EU.

In the light of the above mentioned, we kindly ask you **to clarify the means of transport allowed in EU for:**

- **the truck drivers who hold a CPC and a digital tachograph card**
- **LCVs drivers who are driving vehicles below 3.5 tones moving in order to carry out their transport functions**
- **seasonal workers from agriculture and other fields.**

Please clarify that these workers can travel by cars, including 8+1 seats vehicles and also by charter coach lines, as it is allowed by charter plane lines, provided that they comply with the social distancing rules. We consider that, as it is allowed to go to work by charter plane or by car, it should be allowed to also go to work by coaches, in order to allow those critical workers with contracts to reach their workplace in any EU Member State, while also allowing coach operators to organize similar charter lines as the flight operators.

Looking forward for your kind reply, I thank you and assure you of our highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

**Secretary General
Radu DINESCU**

