

June 29, 2020

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament, You are going to cast Your vote on the “Mobility Package I”. It will set a new standard for the European Road Transport Market, but will substantially impinge upon the proper functioning of the EU Single Market.

For the last 3 years, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, European businesses and industrial associations, trade unions and all other concerned stakeholders in the EU have been involved in intensive discussions on the Mobility Package I.

**We shared and endorsed the main objectives of the proposal, namely, to enhance social conditions for drivers, ensure the efficiency and sustainability of road transport, and at the same time maintain the smooth and proper functioning of the EU Single Market.**

Unfortunately, continuous discussions among the Member States and the European Parliament brought about unexpected outcomes and certain provisions substantially deviated from the initial objectives. New restrictive and disproportionate measures were introduced.

We are convinced that many social issues in the road transport sector will be solved by this legislative package. Nevertheless, certain restrictive and disproportionate measures remain. **As a result, a new heavy curtain of protectionism will descend upon the EU internal market, thereby reducing the competitiveness of EU producers and resulting in increased carbon dioxide emissions.**

We therefore call on all Members of the European Parliament to carefully consider the proposed market restrictive measures **such as the obligation for trucks to return regularly** (every 8 weeks) to the Member State of establishment, “cooling-off” period in cabotage operations and division of cross-trade transport operations.

Let us recall that:

- Mobility Package I created **extraordinary division among the Member States in the Council** – 9 Member States were against provisional interinstitutional agreement;
- **No Impact Assessment** of such provisions on the environment and functioning of the EU Single Market was carried out;
- The practical inability to apply the provisions will effectively **exclude some MS from the EU Single Market** and impose significant and possibly insurmountable barriers to others;

- Admitting this shortcoming in the legislative process, the European Commission **launched a detailed Impact Assessment that is expected to be concluded only in autumn 2020.**
- COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the business environment internationally in an unprecedented way, while the Mobility Package I has been prepared in a completely different reality

Dear Elected Representative,

Taking into account the negative impact of the provisions of the Mobility Package I on the EU Single Market and on European ambitions in the context of the Green Deal,

*we, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/European Affairs and Ministers of Transport of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Romania,*

call on the **European Parliament “to fix” the current version of the Mobility Package I.** Our request is based on deep concern about the road transport sector, which was severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, employing millions of EU citizens and about the EU Single market and the Green Deal, the two strongholds of the next generation EU.

We count on Your understanding of the matter during the Plenary Session, respect to best lawmaking practices and willingness to contribute to the competitiveness of the EU Single Market, de-facto enactment of the Green Deal and well-being of the families dependent on the transport sector.

Respectfully,

Mrs. **Ekaterina Zaharieva**,  
Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial  
Reform and Minister of Foreign  
Affairs, Bulgaria

Mr. **Rossen Jeliakov**  
Minister of Transport, Information  
Technology and Communications,  
Bulgaria

Mr. **Nikos Christodoulides**,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus

Mr. **Yiannis Karousos**,  
Minister of Transport, Communications  
and Works, Cyprus



**Mr. Urmas Reinsalu,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia



**Mr. Taavi Aas,**  
Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure,  
Estonia



**Ms. Judit Varga,**  
Minister of Justice, Hungary



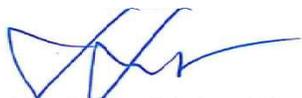
**Mr. László Mosóczy,**  
Minister of State for Transport, Hungary



**Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia



**Mr. Tālis Linkaits,**  
Minister of Transport, Latvia



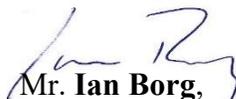
**Mr. Linas Linkevičius,**  
Ministers of Foreign Affairs/European  
Affairs, Lithuania



**Mr. Jaroslav Narkevič,**  
Minister of Transport and Communications,  
Lithuania



**Mr. Evarist Bartolo,**  
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs,  
Malta



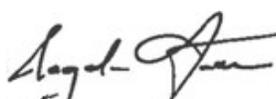
**Mr. Ian Borg,**  
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital  
Projects, Malta



**Mr. Konrad Szymański,**  
Minister for the European Union, Poland



**Mr. Andrzej Adamczyk,**  
Minister of Infrastructure, Poland



**Mr. Bogdan Lucian Aurescu,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania



**Mr. Lucian Nicolae Bode,**  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and  
Communications, Romania