

Str. Ienăchiță Văcărescu, nr. 60, CP 040157, Sector 4, București-ROMÂNIA
Tel: (+40-21) 336 77 88; (+40-21) 330 14 25
Fax: (+40-21) 335 48 25; (+40-21) 337 48 53
www.untrr.ro; e-mail: office@untrr.ro



No. 500/16.03.2020

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, President

Ref.: request for EC urgent measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 crisis on essential economic sectors – FINANCE, ENERGY and TRANSPORT

Dear President,

As the COVID-19 crisis is aggravating and many EU countries have declared state of emergency, The National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania - UNTRR calls on the European Commission to undertake urgent measures in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the essential sectors of the EU economy. In every country should be maintained vital areas in good function:

- FINANCE
- ENERGY
- INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRANSPORT OF GOODS, DOMESTIC TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS

THESE SECTORS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HEALTH SUPPLY AND FOOD SUPPLY!

Blocking the transit of trucks will have immediate, catastrophic and irremediable effects on the European Union economy, exceeding any possible impact of COVID-19. International and domestic transport of goods, domestic transport of passengers, finance and energy sectors must be maintained functional as they are vital lines for the medical system and public food supply.

It is important that goods and trucks continue to circulate within the EU and between EU Member States' borders. We ask European Commission to take urgent measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on road transport, one of the most affected and important sectors of the EU economy!

URGENT MEASURES REQUESTED BY UNTRR TO THE EC IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS ON ROAD TRANSPORT:

1. **Temporary exception from the application of EU driving and rest time rules in exceptional circumstances created by COVID-19 crisis in the EU**

Considering the urgency of Coronavirus outbreak across the EU, we ask the European Commission to grant a temporary exception from the application of EU driving and rest time rules to transport operations carried out in all the EU Member States.



By allowing a temporary derogation from the application of EU driving and rest time rules, professional drivers will be able to transit affected areas and speed essential deliveries such as medical equipment, hand sanitizer and food in response to the EU wide coronavirus outbreak. A similar measure has already been adopted recently by the US.

Also, by allowing the regular 45-hours weekly rest in the cabin, professional drivers will be more isolated and the risk of getting infected with the new coronavirus will be more reduced than in the event that they will continue to be obliged to stay at the hotel. **In these exceptional circumstances, professional drivers should be allowed to take the regular 45-hours weekly rest in the cabin or not take the regular weekly rest at all.**

2. EU coordinated action to keep freight transport moving and avoid an economic blockage, aggravating the impact of COVID-19 in EU Member States

We are highly concerned that certain EU Member States have closed border to freight traffic. May we recall that road transport has a vital role for EU economy. The production and distribution of almost every good on the planet is dependent, at some point, on services provided by road transport operators.

In this context, it is crucial to maintain the functioning of road transport sector and the free movement of trucks which are supplying essential goods to European citizens and economies, such as food and medical items.

UNTRR calls for these urgent measures in order to avoid blocking the road transport activity, considering its vital role in supplying essential goods to European citizens and economies.

Expressing our trust in Your support, we would like to thank You and assure You of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Secretary General
Radu DINESCU**

