



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate C - Land
C.1 - Road Transport

Brussels
MOVE.DDG2.C.1/EL/IM

Mr. Radu DINESCU -
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Dear Mr Dinescu,

I would like to thank you for your letter No.490 of 16 March 2020 to Commissioner Vălean requesting for a temporary exception from the application of EU driving and rest time rules due to the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 crisis. Commissioner Vălean asked me to reply to you on her behalf.

Please be assured that the Commission services are doing their utmost to limit the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on road transport.

Regarding your request on flexibility for driving times and rest periods, please note that so far, 23 Member States including Romania have granted a temporary exception on driving time, rest periods and breaks to ensure national supply of goods due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The possibility to grant such exceptions is the prerogative of Member States but the Commission is coordinating the use of these exceptions by communicating them to all Member States. These temporary exceptions are also published on the Commission's website¹ and regularly updated to reflect the fast evolving situation. We believe that this approach ensures a mutual understanding of the additional flexibilities. It also allows transport companies and their drivers to know the measures that apply in their Member States and the rest of the EU during the COVID-19 crisis.

We are also aware of situations where drivers have difficulties to find a hotel place to take their regular rest outside the vehicle. Measures need also to be taken to reduce the risk of spread of the virus and associated stress of drivers. In this context social distancing should be the rule and drivers should avoid as much as possible leaving the cabin of the vehicle for social interactions. These recommendations were included in the recent Commission's Communication on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/temporary-relaxation-drivers-covid.pdf>

availability of goods and essential services (“Green Lane communication”)² which was published on 23 March 2020³.

Furthermore, as explained in Point 17 of the Green Lane communication, the Commission is of the opinion that Member States should consider urgent suspension of the ban on transport workers spending rest periods in vehicle cabins, in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006. For periods exceeding 30 days, in light of persisting problems, the Commission will consider favourably Member State requests for authorisation for extension of such exceptions. As explained above, any such measures granted by Member States will be notified to all national authorities of EU Member States and published on the Commission’s website.

Please rest assures that we are monitoring the implementation of the Green Lane communication and will use our best endeavours to ensure that all of the principles thereof are adhered to by Member States.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Eddy LIEGEOIS
Head of Unit

²https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/2020-03-23-communication-green-lanes_en.pdf

³https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/2020-03-23-communication-green-lanes_en.pdf,

See Annex 2