



**UNION EUROPÉENNE
DES TRANSPORTEURS ROUTIERS**



President Ursula von der Leyen
Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean
Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders

European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 12 March 2021

Re: free movement restrictions and need to take firm action to keep goods moving under COVID

Dear President von der Leyen, Commissioners Vălean and Reynders,

Despite the Transport Green Lanes and EU Council's recommendations aimed at keeping freight moving during the pandemic, a wave of unilateral restrictive measures is sweeping over the Union.

In particular, from 25 January 2021 Germany put in place special measures introducing COVID 19 testing requirements for those transport companies entering the country, and reintroduced checks at their internal borders.

Following the restrictive policy carried out by Germany, Austria and Czech Republic have also approved border control measures preventing access to their territory to all vehicles whose drivers and occupants do not have a certificate that proves negativity to Covid-19, through proof of PCR or antigenic test carried out in the previous 48 hours.

Such measures are seriously affecting the activity carried out by transport companies and the supply chains that ensure EU citizens are provided with goods they need.

We understand the pressure EU members states are under due to COVID 19 but today more than ever it is of paramount importance to ensure that the flow is not interrupted.

Our entrepreneurs are facing enormous practical difficulties, despite freight and logistics industry staff being considered "essential workers" to be exempted from travel-related tests.

We are extremely grateful to the Commission for having formally warned Germany and other EU Member States.

However, despite all EU Institutions' efforts and reminders, Germany has decided to extend its stationary controls until 17 March.

We see national measures in complete disregard of the sensible principles of the Green Lanes, and of the recommendations adopted by the Council of the EU. With lack of hauler-centered risk assessment, lack of coordination in terms of consequences and follow up approach.

This is a very dangerous path. Such border controls are creating barriers of the Single Market, affecting the free movement of goods and services.

Moreover, they set a dangerous precedent and may result in a domino effect of uncoordinated, disproportionate and unilateral restrictive measures by other EU Member States.

A coordinated and harmonized approach at the EU level is the best way forward to address the challenge of COVID 19.

We the undersigned European associations call on the European Commission to take firm action and ensure that Green Lanes and Council recommendations are fully complied with, not requiring testing for transport workers.

We count on your support in order to keep the mobility sector going and ensure economic continuity across Europe, at one of the most difficult moments for all of us.

Yours sincerely,



Julio Villaescusa

UETR – the European Road Haulers Association
President



Alban Maggiar

SMEunited
President