

LUXEMBOURG, 7 JUNE 2017

ROAD ALLIANCE MINISTERS' MEETING ON THE EVE OF THE EU-TRANSPORT COUNCIL

UNITED ON THE ROAD HAULAGE MARKET

In the run-up to the presentation of the mobility package at the EU Transport Council on 8 June 2017, members of the “road alliance” (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden and Norway) will gather in Luxembourg on 7 June 2017 for a first exchange of views on the mobility package proposals that deal with the access to the road haulage market and the related framework on social rules. Their colleague from The Netherlands will participate at this meeting.

The “road alliance” members are very concerned about abusive practices and fraud regarding social, safety, environmental and labour rules in the European road haulage market. They support measures ensuring the drivers’ right to a balance between work and private life. Therefore, they confirm their determination to work closely together and pursue their common interests already expressed in a meeting held in Paris on 31 January 2017 which set up the “road alliance”. Their common goals are to safeguard social rights, enhance safety and ensure a well-functioning internal market based on healthy and fair competition.

The ministers make clear that there should be no further market opening, in particular as regards cabotage by road, as long as a level playing field of adequate social conditions in the road haulage sector and the principle of “equal pay for equal work in the same place” are not ensured. Moreover, they oppose to grant a further easing of the rules on mobile workers, as this would widen market distortions. Regular return to the country of origin should be facilitated in order to ensure social welfare and a balance between work and private life. In order to avoid social dumping and unfair practices they request a better and effective enforcement of roadside checks and inspections at the premises of the road haulage companies in all member states. Furthermore, they underline the high risks that manipulations and fraud will have on safety of the drivers and other road users. In view of reducing certain administrative burdens, innovation and deployment of digital technologies, such as using electronic consignment note, or extending the scope of information consultable in the European Register of Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU), should be strengthened.

The gathered ministers of the road alliance stand united. They will convey a common message on the core elements to the Council and Commissioner Bulc throughout the whole process of discussions in the Council and with the European Parliament that will follow the presentation of the mobility package.
