

Statement of the 4th ministerial meeting of the Road Alliance
Brussels, 12 November 2018

The Ministers of the Member States of the Road Alliance have met in Brussels on 12 November 2018 to assess the outcome so far of the negotiations on the Mobility Package I and to agree on the next steps based on the latest presidency proposals.

The Members of the Road Alliance thank the Austrian Presidency for the commitment it demonstrated in moving the negotiations of the Council significantly forward during the last months, working on proposals that set the legal framework for road transport for the next decade.

They underline the importance of solving the problems of systematic cabotage, unfair competition, and unlimited use of domestic road leg of combined transport operations. The speedy introduction of smart tachographs both on existing and new vehicles is therefore of crucial importance.

In this respect, members of the Road Alliance attach particular importance to the following principles:

1. the need for clear and enforceable rules, especially where these have been imprecise in the past; rules that guarantee an optimal functioning of the internal market, real and fair competition and taking into account the reality of different labour market models;
2. a legislation that contributes to the improvement of living and working conditions for drivers and guarantees that on the same territory workers are equally paid;
3. enhancement of road safety.

They agreed to adopt constructive approaches towards the possible compromise proposals. However, they regret that the basis for an agreement has not yet been reached. The following issues are still open:

1. driving and resting times;
2. modalities of application regarding posting rules;

3. the prevention of systematic cabotage, including systematic use of domestic road legs in combined transport;
4. the regular return of drivers and vehicles to their Member State of establishment.

The Member States of the Road Alliance are in agreement that they will continue the intense work undertaken, maintaining a constructive and pragmatic approach.