



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Minister

Mr Peter Lundgren
Member of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
Altiero Spinelli 04F155

Belgia

Your ref

Our ref .
15/1093-

Date
04 December 2017

Competence to drive under winter conditions

Dear Mr Peter Lundgren,

I am contacting you concerning the ongoing negotiations on the revision of Directive 2003/59/EC on training of professional drivers in road transport where you are the rapporteur in the TRAN-committee.

The cold and changing climate combined with our topography, makes driving in Norway during winter particularly challenging. Heavy goods vehicles that are not sufficiently equipped for our roads and drivers that are inexperienced with winter driving conditions, represent a serious risk to road safety and a major impairment to the traffic flow.

We are tackling this issue broadly; the number of roadside inspections have been extended quite massively, requirements for use of winter tyres have been strengthened and we provide comprehensive information towards foreign truck drivers in several languages.

Furthermore, recognising the importance of driver competence, we have an extensive mandatory training for drivers of heavy vehicles, which includes thorough training to make the drivers skilled to handle challenging winter roads. However, we experience that not all drivers from our EEA-partners have the necessary competence to drive under these difficult conditions. Statistics show that foreign vehicles clearly are overrepresented in the number of vehicles that get stuck or slip on icy winter roads and lack of skills to drive under difficult winter conditions seems a major contributing factor in this respect.

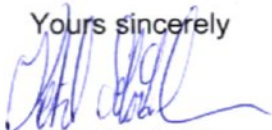
With a common goal to reduce fatalities in road transport and securing efficient transport, I have addressed this issue with the EU-institutions. This includes a letter of 20 January last

year to your colleague MEP Michael Cramer as well as Member States in order to strengthen the requirements for driving under extreme weather conditions within the review of Directive 2003/59/EC. I was however disappointed with the Commission proposal of 1. February 2017 which remained silent on this issue.

I was therefore very pleased to find that a proposal to strengthen the emphasis on the competence to drive during extreme weather conditions was introduced in your draft report of May this year¹ and that it made its way into the report of the TRAN-committee of 20 October 2017².

I would like to express my clear support for this proposal, and hope that Member States in Council will see it the same way in the ongoing negotiations, so that a text along those lines can make its way into the final text. I also thank you for the availability to discuss the issue with my State Secretary Tommy Skjervold in a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 5 December 2017. Please do not hesitate to come back to me in case you think we can be of any further assistance on this issue in your ongoing work.

Yours sincerely



Ketil Solvik-Olsen

¹ Amendment 15 in draft report 24.05.2017 (2017/0015(COD))

² Amendment 31 in report 20.10.2017 (A8-0321/2017)