

Ms Adina-Ioana Vălean
EU Commissioner for Transport
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

16 March 2020

Dear Commissioner Vălean,

With a view to the emergency Transport Council meeting on 18 March, CLECAT would like to take this opportunity to share the recommendations of the European freight forwarding and logistics industry on mitigating the impact of the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 on the EU road freight transport.

Although at present all EU borders remain open for freight transport, we consider that the European Commission has an important role to play in helping alleviate the existing situation in the road freight transport sector and the overall logistics supply chain. As such, we suggest that the Commission recommends the Member States to undertake certain measures, such as centralising information exchange, lifting certain traffic restrictions and embracing harmonised procedures for border controls.

In support of the approach taken by the World Road Transport Organisation (IRU), we recommend that the European Commission:

- **Sets up a functional and structured information system between the Member States and the Commission.** Each Member State should designate one focal point to centralise national information affecting commercial road transport. Information may stem from various national ministries and centralising such information is critical. The focal point will feed the Commission with information in real time.
- **Recommends the Member States to lift various traffic bans** (such as weekend driving bans and the Tyrol ban) in order to facilitate fluidity of commercial traffic. Moreover, we call on the Commission and Member States to suspend the restriction to spend the regular weekly rest in the vehicle's cabin and take a more relaxed approach towards driving and rest time rules. To note, a number of Member States (e.g., Spain, Germany and Austria) have already relaxed driving and rest time requirements.
- **Encourages harmonised procedures for border controls.** We appreciate that DG MOVE and DG HOME are jointly working on EU guidelines regarding the treatment of commercial vehicles by customs authorities. We believe that border controls will benefit from harmonised EU recommendations and urge the Commission to also extend the recommendations to police road side checks because addressing border controls alone solves only part of the issue.



We appreciate the Commission's coordinated response to counter the economic impact of the Coronavirus and hope that the recommendations above will be taken into account in order to ensure the flow of essential goods across the EU borders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicolette', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicolette van der Jagt
Director General