

European Express Association concerned over new road transport restrictions

BRUSSELS (1 June 2017) - The European Express Association (EEA) welcomes the Mobility Package presented yesterday. The EEA agrees with the European Commission that there should be more simplification and harmonisation of rules in the road haulage market, and that a patchwork of national measures should be avoided at all costs.

The EEA particularly welcomes the proposal to harmonise **road charging** and improve the interoperability of toll systems across EU Member States. The EEA fully supports the user and polluter pays principle. In the EEA's opinion, it remains key that road charging schemes are fair, transparent, simple and non-discriminatory. It is very positive that the Commission introduces earmarking for congestion charges in its proposal, but the EEA insists that the principle of earmarking should apply to all road charges and that the collected revenue is integrally re-invested in road transport.

Nevertheless, the EEA is disappointed that the Commission proposed to broaden the scope of Regulation 1071/2009 to **vehicles below 3.5 tonnes**. Express carriers, both integrators and a broad range of SMEs, use this type of vehicles in cities and urban environments. Extension of the administrative burden will not only reduce efficiency, but also increase costs for operators, especially for SMEs.

The EEA furthermore is of the opinion that the Mobility Package is a missed opportunity to complete the internal market for road transport. Better enforcement of existing social legislation in the road transport market is needed to ensure fair competition. However, to subject **international transport** as of three days and **cabotage** operations as of the first day to local remuneration rules does not do justice to the principle of the free movement of services and goods, and limits the necessary flexibility of the industry.

The EEA looks forward to a pragmatic and constructive dialogue with the European Parliament and EU Member States, as the specifics of the Mobility Package are elaborated in the coming months.

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About the EEA

The European Express Association (EEA) is the representative organisation for the express industry in Europe. The industry specialises in time-definite, reliable transportation services for documents, parcels, and freight. It allows European business to rely on predictable, expeditious delivery of supplies, thereby enabling them to attain and maintain global competitiveness. The express industry employs over 250,000 people across the EU and supports a further 175,000 indirect jobs in Europe through the supply-chain. The express industry's employees are widely spread across the EU.