

## Avoid over regulation to support a competitive parcel delivery market

**Brussels (25/05/2016)** - The European Express Association (EEA) welcomes the efforts made by the European institutions to stimulate the growth of intra-European e-commerce driven trade.

*“The EEA understands that the Digital Single Market strategy is a comprehensive effort to address the current patchwork of legislation in a range of policy areas that are related to Digital Society. It is therefore broader than earlier, delivery-related, initiatives. This is a positive development as many of the causes of the slow development of Europe’s e-commerce market are related to issues such as geo-blocking, exclusive distribution contracts, VAT requirements and a lack of international payment systems. This hinders the development of traders and is not directly nor solely related to delivery services”,* said Jaap Mulders, Chair of the EEA.

With regards to the parcel delivery initiative proposed by the Commission, the EEA agrees with the European Commission’s objective that a specific measure to allow for better oversight of current market developments should be simple and consistent. At the same time, the proposal should avoid over regulation of the competitive parcel delivery market through the introduction of additional “red tape”.

The Commission proposal includes a provision for all delivery operators to provide data to the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), consisting of domestic and cross-border number of parcels, turnover and number of employees. The EEA members believe the provision of data related to domestic and cross-border volumes should be sufficient to identify the share and growth of cross-border parcel flows compared to national flows and to assess the impact on cross border e-commerce sales from an affordability perspective.

The proposal also foresees the use of implementing acts to establish the form for the submission of the data required. The EEA would welcome a standardised template for data collection, allowing for effective comparison across the different EU markets. In addition and very importantly, the EEA would also require clear guarantees that individual company data provided by express delivery operators will be treated with confidentiality, given the highly competitive nature of the sector.

The express industry looks forward to the opportunity to maintain a fruitful and constructive dialogue as the specifics of the market information aspects of the initiative are elaborated.

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## ***About the EEA***

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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.