

No. 980/17.03.2015

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
Mrs. Andrea NAHLES - Federal Minister

Ref.: protest against German protectionist legislation, asking German government to cancel MiLoG application to Romanian transport companies

Dear Mrs. Nahles,

May we revert to our letter no. 295/05.02.2015 requiring clarifications on the application of German regulation on minimum wage - MiLoG to Romanian road transport companies. Despite all of our association's interventions addressed directly to the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and German Customs and also the common letter signed by high officials of Romanian Government together with high governmental officials of another 10 European Members States addressing to the German Government serious concerns on the impact to the EU transport sector of the Minimum Wage Act adopted by the Federal Republic of Germany,

the German Government still maintains the application of MiLoG to international road transport operations and cabotage and moreover, the responsible German authorities haven't provided us until now with the necessary information concerning the calculation of the minimum wage for Romanian drivers, the elements of this minimum wage considering also the Romanian legislation and the relevant documents to prove the payment of German minimum wage by the Romanian hauliers to their drivers. This lack of information increases the uncertainty for our members – Romanian road transport companies having to comply with additional labor legislation to the Romanian and EU regulations, imposed abusively by your country without proper information but with extremely high fines of up to 500.000 Euro in the case of no compliance!

In this way, Germany and other developed Member States like France and Belgium are raising barriers to Eastern EU competitors by accusing them of social dumping, a term used more and more for justifying these protectionist measures. The "social dumping" allegation is misused since the differences between Western and Eastern EU wages are not an unfair practice but a consequence of different living and social standards within EU. If analyzing the real situation on EU transport market, Western Member States would understand that **Eastern hauliers don't take Westerner's jobs, but do their jobs!**

The protectionist actions undertaken by German Government are severely affecting the **freedom to provide services in EU** – a fundamental principle of the EU Single Market. In this dangerous approach, EU is going towards self-destruction. EU is more powerful united than divided and it is very important to realize this until it is not too late.

In this context, UNTRR organizes a **protest action on 18 March 2015 in front of the German Embassy in Bucharest, asking German Government to cancel the application of German minimum wage law - MiLoG to Romanian road transport companies. Our association is acting in coordination with other road hauliers associations from the Eastern Europe in our common approach against neo-protectionism in Europe.**

Trusting that the German Embassy in Bucharest will convey our messages to the German Government in order to urgently solve this critical situation, we are looking forward to receiving your kind reply and we assure you of our highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary General
Radu DINESCU

