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European Commission
Mrs. Adina Ioana VĂLEAN, Commissioner for Transport

Ref.: request for a temporary exception from the application of EU driving and rest time rules in exceptional circumstances created by COVID-19 crisis in the EU

Dear Commissioner,

May we revert to our letter No.460 /11.03.2020 asking for a derogation from the ban to spend regular weekly rest in the cabin, as a prevention measure in the context of coronavirus outbreak in the EU.

As the COVID-19 crisis is aggravating, Romania and many EU countries have declared state of emergency and in these exceptional circumstances, EU Member States could apply derogations from the application of EU driving and rest time rules according to Article 14 of Regulation 561/2006. **Considering the urgency of Coronavirus outbreak across the EU, we ask the European Commission to grant a temporary exception from the application of EU driving and rest time rules to transport operations carried out in all the EU Member States.**

By allowing a temporary derogation from the application of EU driving and rest time rules, professional drivers will be able to transit affected areas and speed essential deliveries such as medical equipment, hand sanitizer and food in response to the EU wide coronavirus outbreak. A similar measure has already been adopted recently by the US.

Also, by allowing the regular 45-hours weekly rest in the cabin, professional drivers will be more isolated and the risk of getting infected with the new coronavirus will be more reduced than in the event that they will continue to be obliged to stay at the hotel. **In these exceptional circumstances, professional drivers should be allowed to take the regular 45-hours weekly rest in the cabin or not take the regular weekly rest at all.**

UNTRR calls for these urgent measures in order to avoid blocking the road transport activity, considering its vital role in supplying essential goods to European citizens and economies.

Expressing our trust in Your support, we would like to thank You and assure You of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary General

Radu DINESCU

