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ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT  
CARRIERS IN POLAND – ZMPD

For the kind attention of Mr. Jan BUCZEK – Secretary General

***Subject: fines and penalties applicable in France and Belgium in case  
drivers spend their weekly rest period in vehicles***

Dear Mr. Buczek,

Thank you very much for your letter of 5 August 2014 concerning the fines and penalties applicable in France and Belgium in case drivers spend their weekly rest period in vehicles.

Our association is seriously concerned about such legal approaches, at the national level, of the European Regulation no. 561/2006 whose aim is, actually, the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport, in the spirit of the liberalization of the European road transport market. Even if after 2009, this liberalization trend registered some stagnation, due to the economical and financial crisis, it is unacceptable that certain Members States to adopt such protectionist measures, promoted with the single purpose to become a tool used against European competition in the field of transport.

As regards the new French legislation, UNTRR has addressed the competent French authorities for several times with the request of explanations and information on the implementation and application of the new rules. So far, we haven't received any answer to our requests, denoting the haste and the lack of European spirit that led to the adoption of these measures.

UNTRR has also addressed Romanian Government, the European Commission and the IRU with the request to undertake by emergency all the legal measures and the institutional dialogue approaches to determine French and Belgian authorities to immediately withdraw these recently adopted measures.

We strongly believe that there is an urgent need of clarification at European level and we consider that our countries, together with the other Member States and with the European Commission, should not tolerate such approaches of another



Member State, which either behaves normally, or it withdraws from the European Union. Otherwise, we risk the escalation of a competition between Member States, where fines can reach hundreds of thousands of Euros and decades in prison for offenses established at national level and not by European legislation.

UNTRR fully supports your initiative within the IRU, as it's time for European road transport associations that truly support European economic development, employment, fair competition and compliance with the spirit of the European Union, to make a common front to defend EU's major values that are currently in danger as a result of the protectionist measures recently taken by France and Belgium.

Please be assured of all our cooperation in the preparation of a common position on this important topic and also of our full involvement in presenting it to all the relevant national and European authorities, in order to change these illegal and unfair laws.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Secretary General**

**Radu DINESCU**

