

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Adina Vălean

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 30.03.2022

Federal Association of Road Haulage, Logistics and Disposal (BGL) e.V. Breitenbachstraße 1  
D-60487 Frankfurt am Main

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your letter dated December 1, 2021, which you addressed to President von der Leyen on behalf of several freight transport organizations.

In your letter, you complain in particular about the block clearances imposed by the state of Tyrol on the Brenner route.

Tyrol justifies the traffic restrictions primarily with the need to avoid congestion and excessive truck traffic on the A12 highway.

In the Communication on the European Green Deal and in the Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility, the Commission calls for decisive action to shift traffic from road to more sustainable modes of transport such as rail. Rail has specific advantages in long-distance freight transport.

The Brenner Base Tunnel, whose construction is substantially co-financed by the EU budget, must be the long-term solution to the traffic problems at the Brenner Pass in the 2030s. Until then, however, there is a need for alternative, short-term solutions to the problems caused by the increase in heavy goods traffic along the Brenner corridor. I am convinced that better solutions will then be found if all countries and regions along the Brenner corridor pull together in their design and implementation, taking into account the environment, transport, the internal market and the economy.

The Commission stands ready to continue working with the three Member States mainly concerned to agree on a common package of measures to exclude such traffic restrictions in the future.

I believe that in this context it is possible to take into account both environmental and economic aspects and to find a balance between the interests of the transport industry and those of the population living along the corridor.

Our common view on this matter should be to refrain from unilateral measures (and in any case not even to aggravate them) if the transport policy objectives aimed at by the measures can be equally achieved by other, less intrusive and legally more proportionate measures.

I can assure you that the European Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, will not tolerate unilateral traffic restrictions if they infringe fundamental freedoms and affect the internal market.

Yours sincerely

Walter Goetz

(E-signed)