

Str. Ienăchiță Văcărescu, nr. 60, CP 040157, Sector 4, București-ROMÂNIA
Tel: (+40-21) 336 77 88; (+40-21) 330 14 25
Fax: (+40-21) 335 48 25; (+40-21) 337 48 53
www.untrr.ro; e-mail: office@untrr.ro



No. 1102/26.05.2017

INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT UNION

For the kind attention of:

Mr. Christian LABROT – President and Mr. Umberto DE PRETTO – Secretary General

Ref. request for urgent measures against German law introducing the ban on the regular weekly rest in the cabin and concrete actions to stop the escalation of protectionism in European road transport

Dear Mr. President, Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania – UNTRR would like to address to the International Road Transport Union its serious concerns with the increasing protectionism of Germany, a founding Member State of the EU and also as an important commercial partner of Romania. Our association protests against the recent German law prohibiting professional drivers to spend the regular weekly rest in the cabin of commercial transport vehicles, which entered into force this week. **We kindly ask the IRU to support us by asking German authorities to immediately withdraw this protectionist law, which is against the provisions of the EU rules and highly affects the activity of our members, Romanian road transport companies.**

We are against such abusive national interpretations of European Regulation no. 561/2006 whose aim is, actually, the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport. Considering that the European Commission is currently analyzing the similar divergent measures taken by France and Belgium with a view to propose an European common solution, it is unacceptable that in the meantime, Germany adopts the same protectionist measure, promoted with the single purpose to become a tool used against European competition in the field of transport. **This situation is also due to the lack of any concrete action from the European Commission against the similar laws applied by France and Belgium since 2014. We kindly ask the IRU to support us by asking the European Commission to condemn more strongly such national initiatives and to stop them by immediate measures and not through complex and lengthy EU procedures, as they are against the spirit of the European Union and its aim for a single transport market.**



The law recently enforced by Germany, following Belgium and France, is very restrictive, inadequate and definitely discriminatory as it is not applicable to the German resident transport operators, which obviously are not spending their weekly rest in the cabin of the vehicle, but at home.

This measure is clearly directed against foreign road hauliers and drivers performing international road transport, which is, by its nature, a highly mobile activity. Germany is asking foreign drivers to sleep at the hotel, although it is well known that in Germany and across the EU, there is an acute lack of secure parking facilities that could offer appropriate accommodation to foreign drivers while being safe for the drivers and their freight.

The measure to ban professional drivers spending the regular weekly rest in the cabin does not affect only road transport operators, but also their clients and the goods of billions of Euros transported every day in EU. In this respect, may we recall hereby the numerous attacks against Romanian and other Eastern European trucks in parking areas across Western EU during the last years.

Moreover, it is unacceptable to immediately apply such a measure, shortly after the adoption of the respective German law, without any proper information of our industry in advance, having allowed transport operators to prepare. Instead, our hauliers are facing increased uncertainty, being forced to reorganize the activities of their drivers overnight and to find urgent solutions to rather impossible problems like booking accommodation for drivers and safe parking for their vehicles during this weekend. While we salute IRU letter addressed to the German Transport Minister Dobrindt asking for 2 months moratorium on the enforcement of the weekly rest ban, we consider also necessary to address a clear message against any enforcement of this abusive law.

Romanian road transport industry is revolted and seriously concerned with these protectionist measures, which affect the fundamental values of the EU single market, such as the free movement of services and goods. In this moment of crossroads for the future of the EU, European countries are stronger if united and this can only be achieved by enforcing common, and not diverging EU rules in order to build a competitive Europe.

UNTRR calls on the International Road Transport Union, as the global voice and representative of our industry, to urge the relevant European institutions to undertake urgent measures against German law introducing the ban on the regular weekly rest in the cabin and also to implement concrete actions to stop the escalation of protectionism in European road transport.

Expressing our trust in your support, I thank you and assure you of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary General

Radu DINESCU

