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Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

Brussels, 20 October 2017

Protecting our workers is not protectionism!

An ETF statement on posting of workers in road transport

On 16 October the EMPL Committee of the European Parliament rejected all attempts to exclude road transport from the scope of the revised posting of workers and its application directive.

The European Transport Workers' Federation considers this stance in itself a positive sign and has passed on the message to the tens of thousands of professional drivers we and our member organisations are in touch with via the social media. This shows strong political will to protect our professionals and to respect the EU Treaty which guarantees non-discrimination of EU citizens within the frame of free movement of labour.

The ETF wants to believe that this vote is a clear sign too for an emerging collective conscience, of all Member States, that people and their dignity are no less important as business interests.

Thousands of professional drivers, together with the ETF and our affiliates will now be waiting for the result of the upcoming EPSCO Council meeting of 23 October. We are surprised to see that road transport is now subject to a series of potential exemptions, subject to trade-offs that may impact millions of jobs.

The EPSCO Council decisions may impact not only on the lives and work of professional drivers, but on the future of the road transport sector as a whole. To this end, the ETF warns that any attempt to exclude road transport - totally or partially - from the scope of the future posting of workers directive will put at risk the entire Mobility Package, as its social and market pillar proposals are hugely interlinked. Posting decisions will impact on future institutional debates on cabotage, letter-box companies and driving and rest time, notably the drivers' return to the home country.

By way of example, the Visegrad countries ask to exempt cabotage from the application of posting rules and in exchange they would agree with the introduction of the levels of remunerations in road transport. This position may heavily disrupt the already sensitive EU institutional debates on cabotage. On the other hand, excluding road transport from the full remuneration provisions will render the European Commission proposal on drivers' return to the home country totally ineffective, as this may mean the drivers will have to pay for their own repatriation.

In response to concerns that posting of workers cannot be enforced in road transport, the ETF must point out that enforcement is easy and will not create administrative burden.



President Frank Moreels

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova



To this end, the ETF has made a series of concrete proposals¹ which are gaining support from members of the European Parliament and Member States. Amongst these proposals, most important are:

- The early introduction of the 'smart' tachograph as a means of effectively determining the driver's temporary workplace
- The introduction of an electronic posting declaration, at the EU level, to be filled in for every posting (every driver and operation), with access given to control authorities in real time to this EU posting 'register'

A sector where 30% of trucks subject to controls prove to be in breach of EU Rules cannot be made fairer and more attractive by further derogations and exemptions from the law. The ETF has always been ready to engage in constructive talks with the European institutions in order to secure a future legal frame for the sector meant to restore the dignity of the driver profession. No trucks parked along EU roads and motorways, no drivers living in squalid ad-hoc parking areas, a fair transport with legal working conditions and fair competition for all, this must be our common goal and we do trust the outcome of the EPSCO Council will prove it.

¹ More details about the ETF position on posting, cabotage and the Mobility Package, as well as the full set of ETF proposals on enforcement solutions can be downloaded here: <http://www.etf-europe.org/etf-news-online.cfm/newsdetail/11662>



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