



Agnes Jongerius MEP (S&D)

Brussels, 02 May 2017

Commissioner Violeta Bulc
DG Transport and Mobility
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Subject: Forthcoming Road Package

Dear Commissioner Bulc,

Two years ago, the European Commission started a project aimed at clarifying, simplifying and improving the enforceability of EU legislation in road transport. The exercise would seek to tackle social dumping and reinstate a climate of fair competition in the sector. This matched President Juncker's 2014 *Political Guidelines* which state that *the same work at the same place should be remunerated in the same manner* and that *social dumping has no place in the European Union*.

Despite various meetings with Members of the European Parliament in which you assured us that tackling social dumping in the transport sector is a priority for this Commission, we remain extremely concerned that the forthcoming Road Package may have the opposite effect as well as a number of unintended consequences.

Numerous conversations with stakeholders as well as the examination of Commission questionnaires, would suggest that the legislative changes currently under consideration would increase precariousness in the transport sector and reduce the safety of passengers and road users.

In particular, the possible changes to Regulation EC/561/2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport could increase fatigue, reduce road safety and push drivers to rest in the cabins of their trucks more frequently. All in all, this would worsen working conditions for drivers rather than improve them.

We urge the Commission to focus instead on the better enforcement of current driving and rest time rules. In particular, we are of the view that weekly rest provisions must not be changed, and that weekly rest must be taken away from the vehicle.

With regard to the application of Directive EC/96/71 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services, we are aware of the specific problems in the transport sector and in favour of clear, sector-specific rules to complement current rules. In our view, these must focus on clarifying pay and protection standards for professional drivers engaged in international transport - from those performing simple cabotage to those recruited so as to be based abroad for some time. Rules that strike the right balance between the protection of drivers and clarity for employers.

Different stakeholders are concerned that the Commission envisages new cabotage rules that would lead to a double liberalisation of the market: first as regards pay conditions for drivers, second as regards the quantity of journeys permitted. This could lead to further undesirable distortions in the single market.

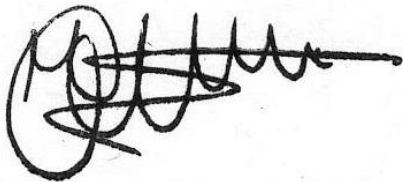
Let us be clear: giving road transport operators more rather than fewer tools to exploit drivers is unacceptable for us.

Allow us to remind you that the Rome Declaration signed as recently as 15 March 2017 reiterates our common European commitment *"to work towards ... a social Europe ... which ...promotes economic and social progress as well as cohesion and convergence"*.

We urge the Commission to review its proposals in this light. And to present a Road Package that does justice to our common commitment to a Social Europe. A package that will halt social dumping rather than legalise it.

Yours sincerely,

Agnes Jongerius MEP (S&D)

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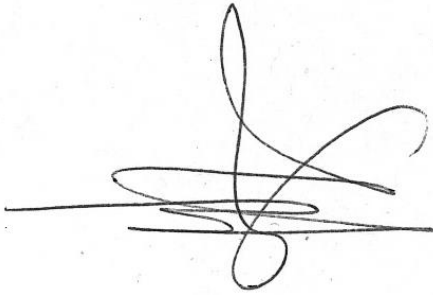
Ismail Ertug MEP (S&D)

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Ole Christensen MEP (S&D)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ole Christensen', written in a cursive style.

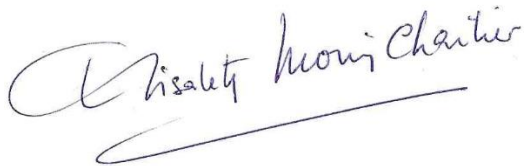
Georges Bach MEP (EPP)

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Claude Rolin MEP (EPP)

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Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP (EPP)

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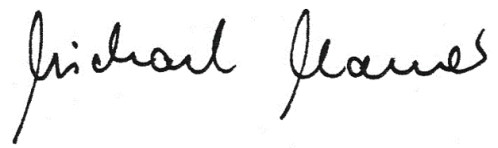
Dominique Riquet MEP (ALDE)

A handwritten signature that appears to be 'Riquet' with two small crosses at the end and a long underline.

Terry Reintke MEP (Greens)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'TERRY REINTKE'.

Michael Cramer MEP (Greens)

Handwritten signature of Michael Cramer in black ink.

Dennis de Jong MEP (GUE NGL)

Handwritten signature of Dennis de Jong in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'D' followed by a long horizontal stroke.