Template for Member States to notify their derogation from driving and rest times pursuant to Art. 14(2) of Regulation 561/2006

In response to the extraordinary crisis situation due to the pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), BELGIUM has agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles active in the complete supply chain for the transport of essential goods and medication. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 and the purpose of this document is to notify the Commission accordingly.

This temporary relaxation applies from 01/04/2020 and will run until 30/04/2020. It will apply to those drivers involved in the delivery of goods domestically and internationally.

BELGIUM has made it clear that driver and road safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

For the above-mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- **Derogation to Article 6(2) of Regulation 561/2006**: replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours;

- **Derogation to Article 6(3) of Regulation 561/2006**: replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 96 hours;

- **Derogation to Article 8(6) of Regulation 561/2006**: postponement of a weekly rest period beyond six-24 hours period;

- **Derogation to Art. 8(6)**: reduction of the regular weekly rest period from 45 hours to 24 hours without any compensation.

The temporary relaxation of the rules described above reflects the exceptional circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak. BELGIUM wishes to emphasise that, as a general rule, we expect business to plan for and manage the risks of disruption to supply chains.

The Minister of Transport