



Joint Statement of the European Social Partners on the Ministerial Conference on road haulage transport: harmonising European social policies

Emphasising the strategic importance of road freight transport for the European economy;

Re-iterating the need for economic, social and environmental sustainability in the road freight sector;

Road freight transport is considered today as the engine of the European economy, as it carries about 75% of all freight overland and close to 90% of the value of all freight. Freight transport represents almost 2 % of European GDP.

Underlining the importance of the road freight sector to employment: over 6 million jobs in the EU depend directly on trucks.

Recalling that the European Commission emphasises in its White Paper that road transport will continue to play the dominant role in a resource efficient, sustainable EU transport system.

Equally recalling the social partners' statement from December 7th 2012 on the further opening of the EU Road Haulage Market, stating their view that at the moment conditions are not in place to allow further opening of the market.

To ensure the free movement of goods, persons and services it is of vital importance that all existing applicable legislation in road freight transport is fully and consistently enforced throughout the EU. Non-compliance should be efficiently detected during controls and subsequently sanctioned. To this end, the Member States should loyally cooperate cross-border.

To ensure that this cooperation is achieved, the Social Partners recommend that existing cooperation initiatives are strengthened and concentrated in a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, under the conditions laid down in Regulation 1082/2006EC.

Considering the IRU-ETF policy package on the EU road haulage market from February 6th 2013, the Social Partners are ready to work together with the Member States, the European Institutions and the enforcement community towards practical solutions both regulatory and in application thereof to ensure fair competition and sustainability in the sector.

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