

## IRU Road Transport Conference "Efficient Solutions for making road transport greener"

### Opening:

- I am glad having the opportunity to speak today at your important conference. Since a long time I am involved in Transport. Before I entered the European Parliament in 2004 I worked at the Ministry of Transport. In the European Parliament both as Member of the Transport committee and as Vice-president of the EPP Group Transport is a key issue because transport is the backbone of our European economy a key issue to take care of in order to provide our citizens with growth and jobs

- When I look over the past 10-15 years, the progress made, to make the transport more efficient and more sustainable is huge. Trucks became more fuel efficient and emissions went down dramatically. Thanks to innovation, logistic solutions using all modes of transport became more fashionable.

But we cannot lean back - at all

- Because of the ongoing Economic growth predictions - and let's be happy about that, the crisis is expected to have only a temporary impact - because of the growth predictions, the volume of transport will increase further

- This means the issue of today efficient solutions for making road transport greener is a key issue for the transport sector. The challenge is even bigger because there is no low hanging fruit anymore.

- There are voices who say rail and water transport are the solutions and let's block road transport, also here in Brussels. Often it seems to be too much a battle between modes But I can tell you: That will not work. For door to door solutions we will always need road transport and in many cases road transport is the most efficient solution

Nowadays we see our trucks driving throughout Europe, in all our member states. To make sure this will still be the case in 10, 15 years we definitely have to invest in sustainable efficient transport to stay viable. We have to invest in innovative logistics, using all modes of transport throughout the logistic chain. Road transport companies are in the best position to master the logistic chain.

-Therefore, we have to face the challenges:

-First of all we need the smart transport change: how can we help facilitate to make transport greener and more sustainable? I would like to use a clear example

- We see in the Netherlands a positive development regarding the use of the European Modular concept, the so called Eco-Combi. As we know, opponents would like to say the monstertruck, because of emotional arguments. I prefer the use of Ecocombi, since clear evidence based on facts and figures shows that the Ecocombi on certain safe routes is a more efficient and sustainable way of transporting goods.

- The Ecocombi is a large truck that can transport more goods than a regular truck and it uses less Co2. In the Netherlands, we have good experiences of using the ecocombi, for instance in the transport from and to our Flower auctions and it is a huge success

-The ecocombi is a positive development in making transport in my country The Netherlands more efficient, but the revenue could be bigger if we could use the ecocombi cross border,

-So I would like to call on the Commission to allow countries who would like to use the ecocombi to make it possible to use it also cross border

- Also in other areas we have to deepen our internal market.- The European Commission is currently involved in a study of Cabotage, and I really do hope that this study means progress, since cross boarder logistics is needed if we want to make transport in Europe more sustainable and efficient

- Therefore cross boarder roadtransport as key part of our logistic network should be a priority in the Green growth agenda in Europe;

- Thirdly, the development of our infrastructure in Europe

-In the TEN-T guidelines we have to make sure that infrastructure gets a high priority. All modes of transport needs the appropriate attention in this fields, with specific attention to crossborder connections.

- The TEN-T will be discussed in the European Parliament these coming months, in June the draftreports will be presented and I am looking forward to the further discussion

-Fourth, we need a continued and even bigger focus on innovation. Transport and Logistics need more priority in Research and development programs, together with appropriate incentives to implement innovations.

Innovation on trucks, lower emissions and improving the aerodynamica, which should be allowed in the legislation as well.

Further more, we need brainpower to develop intelligent solutions for urban logistics and innovative multimodal transport in order to optimise the logistical chain and develop our transport sector into the world champion in sustainable and efficient transport. That should be our ambition.

This will be your challenge and our common challenge in the upcoming years to go. I would like to wish you an inspiring conference

Thank you