

No: SG2020/264

Date: 11/5/2020

Excellency,

I am thankfully in receipt of your communication regarding COVID-19 pandemic and its associated factors appearing to be negatively effecting the international and regional road transport. I further acknowledge the utility and significance of the segmental explanation made in your farsighted letter including, facts and figures pertaining to economic impacts of the pandemic, specific short term schemes to ensure road transport's role for economic recovery and specific midterm schemes to support road transport in the ongoing epoch of global crisis inflicted by Coronavirus.

While fully agreeing and supporting the image of crunch portrayed in your communication as well as schemes and recommendations given therein, I assure you, Excellency, that the ECO would always remain ambitious, forthcoming and ever-receptive to adhere to any thoughtful intents of the esteemed IRU that are aimed to counter the expectedly adverse effects of COVID-19 on any area of human activities, especially international and regional road transport. However, the ECO would genuinely need IRU's active collaboration, particularly on technical aspects to assist the joint and smooth implementation of the schemes envisaged in your letter.

Meanwhile, I would like to underline that as per IRU's relevant suggestions and recommendations, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has prepared and circulated among its Member States the "ECO Guidelines" regarding border measures for the unhindered and continuous supplies of essentially required goods, especially medical and food. Moreover, the proposed ECO Guidelines aim at making an effective and efficient regional response for countering the unpleasing effects of COVID-19, as well as early recovery of routine socio-economic activities in the ECO region.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my best wishes and regards.



Hadi Soleimanpour

His Excellency Mr. Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General, International Road Transport Union, Geneva