



Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200 / Wetstraat 200
1040 Brussels
Belgium



By email

BR1061830/RMA

Brussels, 26 novembre 2025

Re: Road transport petition: Yes to greening, No to purchasing mandates

Dear President von der Leyen,

IRU would like to convey to you the united and peaceful protest of transport operators and shippers from all 26 EU Member States regarding the European Commission's initiative to introduce mandatory zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) purchasing targets.

Following the joint letter that IRU, together with leading European organisations representing shippers and freight forwarders, addressed to you earlier this month, IRU launched the petition "Yes to Greening, No to Mandates" to provide stakeholders across the EU with a direct and transparent means to express their shared concerns.

In just a short time, 5,302 transport operators and shippers from across the EU signed the petition. They represent a genuine cross-section of the EU's mobility and logistics community, including SMEs, family-run companies, and large operators.

Their message is unified and pragmatic: while they are strongly committed to decarbonisation, they consider mandatory ZEV purchasing quotas disproportionate and unworkable so long as the enabling conditions are not in place, and potentially harmful to competitiveness, internal market cohesion, and service continuity. If the enabling conditions were in place, or are established in the future consistently across the EU, a mandate would not be necessary because the demand for ZEV would naturally scale up.

This is a peaceful protest not against the EU's climate objectives but against a policy instrument that operators and shippers believe will not deliver the intended results and will instead distort markets and harm businesses.

The EU's road freight sector is already transitioning to ZEVs and will accelerate further once the enabling conditions are in place and operations are compatible with these vehicles. Please note that many of the signatories are already using ZEVs and have made substantial investments in related alternative fuels infrastructure. However, these investments have been made under healthy market conditions and not legally forced.

The road transport sector therefore respectfully asks you to reconsider the intention to impose mandatory ZEV purchasing targets on any actor in the free-market value chain. A more effective and sustainable approach would be to prioritise enabling conditions: the rapid deployment of infrastructure, suitable taxation and charging frameworks, and practical financing instruments. These measures would empower operators and shippers to accelerate the transition without compromising their viability or the essential services they provide.

We remain at your disposal for continued dialogue on road freight decarbonisation.

Enclosed with this letter, please find the list of the petition's signatories.

Yours sincerely,



Raluca Marian

Director EU Advocacy/ General Delegate
IRU Permanent Delegation to the EU

Cc: Apostolos Tzitzikostas, European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism