



JOINT STATEMENT

Social partners for better regulation and digital enforcement

- Following the latest wave of EU enlargements, the Single market has further widened, with steady integration of economies, markets and services of new and old Member States;
- Goods and passenger transport flows have increased to serve mobility, integration, specialisation and division of labour within the EU;
- The road transport and logistics sectors, its companies and drivers, have been at the centre of this outstanding societal, political and economic process;
- Legislation is being updated to reflect this evolution, including recently with a set of proposals grouped in three Mobility Packages. The objectives are to improve market functioning, social acceptability, encourage innovation, safety and indeed sustainability in its three dimensions – social, economic and environmental;
- Innovative and modern enforcement, being the second pillar of an efficiently functioning market, is unfortunately lagging behind, despite some positive steps, such as the creation of ERRU:
 - As yet, there are no coherent and comprehensive EU vision and strategy on enforcement of EU's road transport acquis,
 - There is no evolution in making enforcement more targeted, more intelligence-led, based on aligned risk-rating systems of transport companies and drivers,
 - There is no EU body/agency to ensure coordination and alignment of Member States' approaches on enforcing road transport rules,
 - Wide-scale digitalisation is still at an early stage. This includes transport documents, including those proving compliance and the creation of central information hub(s) or the interconnection of existing enforcement-related data bases.
- A backdrop of severe budgetary cuts and understaffing of relevant national road transport enforcement authorities in the majority of EU's Member States is becoming increasingly visible.
- Without change, the fair and efficient implementation of EU's road transport-related legislation and above all the very functioning of EU's road transport market and logistics chains will be further compromised, to the detriment of those engaged in the sector, as well as EU's mobility, economy and trade.

- EU's road transport social partners, IRU and ETF, therefore:
 - Propose, to make enforcement and in particular digitalisation of enforcement of the entire EU's road transport acquis, whereby enforcement becomes more targeted, intelligence-led with aligned risk-rating systems of transport companies and drivers, a priority for the next legislature of the European Parliament and the European Commission;
 - Invite the European Commission to consider preparing and adopting a dedicated Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on Enforcement in the Digital Age, as an outcome of a wide Member States', societal and industry consultation, with the closest possible involvement of European road transport social partners;
 - Recommend to the European Commission and legislators to consider the creation of a full scale European Road Transport Agency, with the objective to accompany implementation, digitalisation and enforcement of the entire EU's road transport acquis, whilst at the same time providing assistance in information, harmonisation, interpretation, and sharing good practices.