



## **IRU Position on Brexit**

### **I. ANALYSIS**

The process of Brexit and the ongoing negotiations is a highly challenging policy matter for the road transport industry. The outcome of the negotiations is still unclear and should a “hard Brexit” eventually happen, the economic consequences in terms of economic competitiveness for the industry could be very severe. This is of particular importance for the EU economy given that, according to Eurostat, road transport accounts for almost 50% of the total freight activity in the EU within which the sector is of growing importance. From 2010–2050, it is estimated that passenger transport will grow by about 42%. Freight transport is expected to grow by roughly 60%. Hence, mitigating the negative effects of Brexit on the road transport industry must be a priority of utmost importance for the EU and UK teams negotiating Brexit.

While the focal points of the road transport industry concerning the Brexit negotiations are primarily about access to the profession and the market on the one side, and customs procedures on the other side, the industry will also be challenged by matters related to those policy items, including the need for a clear time-line and a comprehensive transition period communicated well in advance to the sector, a guaranteed continued connection between the Republic of Ireland and the EU26, an alignment of social conditions to facilitate the operations of EU and UK hauliers, assurances for future access to the labour market, mutual recognition of customs and security-related accreditation systems, assurances that other border-related issues will be addressed, mutual recognition of traffic rules and continued information exchange for enforcement, commitment to prioritise digitalisation, and efforts taken to ensure the administrative burden on hauliers does not increase.

Further details on IRU’s position can be found in the document “IRU Position on Brexit – detailed technical analysis”. A summary of the position of the road transport industry concerning Brexit has been outlined below in section II, IRU Position, of this paper.

### **II. IRU POSITION**

The following points outline the position of IRU regarding the Brexit negotiations and their potential outcome.

- Frictionless trade and road transport movements between the UK and the EU in a post-Brexit scenario will be absolutely key.
- No deal is no option, especially regarding customs and market access matters.
- Business continuity through safeguarding the status quo will be necessary and must be ensured through a sufficient transition period until a new agreement between the UK and the EU has been implemented.

- Sufficient implementation time for businesses and authorities must be accounted for in the post-Brexit arrangements.
- For the SME driven carrier industry, low administrative burden including red tape will be paramount in a post-Brexit world in order to sustain competitiveness and efficiency in the carrier and logistics industry in the EU and UK.
- Smooth arrangements must cover the entire regulatory framework of EU-UK relationships post-Brexit and go beyond market access and customs affairs.