SOCIALLY FAIR AND COMPETITIVE

Proper conditions for workers, new opportunities for companies

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority of the Juncker Commission. A month ago, the Commission proposed a European pillar of social rights and initiated a reflection on the social dimension of Europe by 2025. Today, we are further delivering on our social commitments by adopting a number of measures specific to road transport. The aim is to ensure social fairness and competitiveness in this sector which provides jobs for more than 5 million Europeans.

An internal market for road transport that protects and empowers

The first priority is to fight against illicit employment practices and “letterbox companies”. The proposals will guarantee that transport undertakings are established in the Member State where they have genuine activity and not where they benefit from the most lenient rules. The Commission also intends to ensure proper conditions and rest times for workers. To that end, a better work life balance and more certainty about rest times and applicable wages will be established. Greater certainty, clarity and better enforcement will reward those people trying to do an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay.

Our proposals for a socially fair and competitive haulage market:

Clearer and common rules across the EU

The Commission is proposing to clarify a number of rules which are interpreted differently across Europe and risk fragmenting the internal market. This includes for instance the application of minimum wage laws to truck drivers.

Better enforcement

Cross-border cooperation and an improved enforcement system will have a positive impact on social fairness and contribute to a level playing field between hauliers.

Fighting letterbox companies

The Commission is proposing new establishment criteria and better enforcement to crack down on this illegal phenomenon. This will better protect drivers and contribute to fairer competition.

Benefits: allow savings for businesses of around EUR 3 to 5 billion for the EU for 2020-2035.
Maximising synergies, boosting investments

“Europe on the Move” is also designed to boost investments in the mobility sector at large. Alongside the physical transport network and an alternative fuel infrastructure, digital infrastructures – well interconnected and interoperable across borders – are needed. The investments that are required will drive Europe’s growth, job creation and competitiveness. A 1 per cent of increase in spending on infrastructure leads to 1.5 percentage point of increase in Gross Domestic Product.

For the 2014-2020 period, EUR 70 billion have been programmed in the Cohesion Fund and European Regional Development Fund to support co-financing for investments in the field of mobility and transport.

Under the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport, EUR 24 billion will be made available from the EU’s 2014-2020 budget to co-fund priority infrastructure projects. So far, the programme has co-funded 452 projects for a total amount of EUR 19.4 billion, representing a total investment (when combined with other public or private funds) of EUR 37.7 billion.

As of May 2017, the European Investment Bank Board has approved EFSI support to 38 operations, contributing to transport objectives triggering a total EUR 17.5 billion in related investment. This represents around 9 per cent of the overall investment that we expect to be triggered by all approved operations (EUR 194 billion). EFSI is for instance supporting the purchase of 10 hydrogen fuel cell buses and 10 hydrogen trolleys in Riga.