

Brussels, 25th February 2016

UEAPME Transport Forum

Managing the impact of Migration on the road haulage sector

Contribution to the Land Transport Security Expert's Group

UEAPME Transport forum is a co-operation platform set up by UEAPME (The European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) and bringing together representatives of European branch confederations, SMEs from road transport, manufacturing and repair road vehicles. It aims to gather different stakeholders and develop joint positions on all road transport-related issues such as sustainable transport, organization of the supply chain, road safety and infrastructure efficiency

Background:

The Land Transport Security Expert's Group has organized an informal technical working group on the theme of "Managing the impact of migration on the road haulage sector".

This Working Group will tackle specific concerns linked to the impact of clandestine migration on the road haulage sector in EU; the actual impacts/costs and their causes; the possible initiatives for reducing these impacts and the potential mitigation measures that should be applied; the subjects that should cover the costs of these mitigation measures.

Our position:

Ueapme Transport forum welcomes this initiative of the European Commission and warns against the possible reintroduction of border controls due to the rising number of migrants. It draws the attention on both direct and indirect costs that could be generated by the clandestine migration. In fact companies directly incur higher personnel and material costs (e.g. for employees and gasoline) which represent a direct cost; they also have to invest in additional security measures to avoid the intrusion of illegal migrants in their vehicles and to guarantee the safety of their drivers.

On the other side, costs can indirectly derive from the incapacity of transport companies to deliver goods on time. In fact they are confronted with long waiting times caused by security checks and raids of the illegal migrants. Hence, due to this reason, companies have to pay contractual penalties or find solutions like renting storage rooms abroad in order to solve the problem.

Furthermore, companies transporting people might face burdens when their passengers fail to arrive on time. Depending on the hours, the driver has already been driving and on the time he is waiting at the border, the working and rest time rules might force the driver to interrupt his transportation operation.

Ueapme Transport forum estimates that it is up to the National governments to guarantee safe transport conditions and free movement of goods/persons. It could also be recommended to the Member States to install at the borders special "truck lanes" for commercial vehicles and "green lanes" for companies that take extra measures to prevent intrusion of migrants, a focus on improved protection of the outer borders of the EU. Other potential mitigation measures that should be applied concern coordinated actions and procedures together with neighbouring countries, like sealing of trailers/containers, repairing the damage that hauliers suffer, improving the controls in order to eliminate the liability targeted to the hauliers, better regulating traffic, improving secured facilities at the borders.

On the European Commission side, some measures could also be taken such as a relaxation of driving and rest time (REGULATION (EC) No 561/2006) for the waiting time at the borders. UEAPME Transport Forum supports the elaboration of guidelines, manuals and an easy flow of goods and services within EU. Member states and EU as a whole should cover these costs.

Our proposals:

At the EU level, UEAPME Transport Forum draws the attention on the economic burden for the road haulage sector and suggests the following actions:

- 1. Introduction of special corridors for commercial transport at border crossing**
- 2. Coordinated actions and procedures together with neighbouring countries**
- 3. Introduction of EU guidelines and manuals**
- 4. Member states' intervention together with EU**
- 5. A relaxation of driving and rest time rules**