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## **Transport working time: SMEs deeply concerned by Parliament Committee's vote**

Brussels, 28 April 2010 – This morning's vote in the European Parliament's Employment Committee on the transport working time directive will harm self-employed workers and restrict their freedom to organise their work according to their needs, according to UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers' organisation. MEPs adopted a draft legislative resolution to reject a proposal by the European Commission on the revision of rules on the working time of mobile road transport workers. If the Commission proposal is rejected, self-employed workers would in practice be covered by the current rules, which strictly limit working times on grounds of road safety. This would also mean leaving aside provisions which would provide significant improvement in the fight against false self-employment. UEAPME strongly hopes that the vote which is expected to take place during the June plenary session of the Parliament will go against the opinion expressed in the committee.

*"UEAPME is very disappointed by this morning's vote. By rejecting the European Commission's proposal, MEPs are sanctioning self-employed workers and depriving them of their prerogative to organise their work as they see fit", said Liliane Volozinskis, Director for Social Policy at UEAPME. "Arguments according to which the Commission's proposal would create a threat to road safety are invalid. All drivers, whatever their employment status, are already subject to the strict existing EU rules on driving time and rest periods. The Parliament's plenary should take a more sensible approach and support the Commission's proposal, which is the only reasonable way forward to tackle the sensitive issue of false self-employment in the sector."*

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*

**EDITORS' NOTES:** UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 83 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information: <http://www.ueapme.com/>

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