



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES TRANSPORTEURS ROUTIERS EUROPEAN ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION

European Commission
Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussel

Gentbrugge, 17/08/16

Dear President Juncker,

Subject: Schengen area – reintroduction of border controls

For the transport sector the free movement in the internal market is of the utmost importance. The reintroduction of border controls at the intra EU borders and the repeated prolongations are worrying our organisation.

The border controls are causing a lot of waiting time for the transport of goods by road. The financial damage this causes to our transport companies is not compensated by anyone. The free traffic of goods must be restored as soon as possible. In the meantime the harm could be reduced by opening separate lanes for commercial vehicles. The Commission could urge Member States to consider this.

The reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders must remain an exception and must respect the principle of proportionality. The closing of borders for reasons of terrorism are experienced as measures to protect the national internal market against competence of haulers from neighbouring countries, but not leading to a higher safety. Only the border-crossings at highways are controlled, where the trucks are passing the border-crossing point. Border-crossings at local national roads are not being controlled, as if terrorist wouldn't know this. Terrorism attacks seem to be used by Member States to protect the national economy. The damage this causes to trade flows should not be underestimated.

The European Commission should safeguard the application of the European basic principles like the free movement, otherwise the continuation of the European Union and her added value will be questioned more and more.

Yours faithfully,

Lode Verkinderen
Secretary General UETR

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