



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES TRANSPORTEURS ROUTIERS

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EP VOTE APPLYING WORKING TIME TO SELF EMPLOYED DRIVERS INDICATES SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY

UETR strongly condemns the European Parliament Plenary session's vote on the 16 th of June rejecting the Commission's proposal to exempt self-employed drivers from directive 2002/15/CE on working time of mobile workers.

This decision indicates a deficiency in social and enterprise policy by adding administrative burdens to entrepreneurs who are free to organize their work, without improvement in road safety and social protection.

Road safety is already fairly covered by Regulation 2006/561 on resting times and driving periods in exactly the same way for employed and self-employed drivers. *"The definition of road transport as <the backbone of the real economy> is the constant refrain of policy makers, whereas at the end of the day misleading interpretations of road safety are used to penalize road haulers"* said UETR President Francesco Del Boca.

With the euro area unemployment rate at 10 %, the Eurozone crisis threatening recovery, strict measures taken by many EU Member States, the European Parliament adds further to the administrative load of weak companies: this vote indicates short-sighted policy driven by prejudices and sends a very negative signal.

Of particular concern is the effect the inclusion will have on transport companies' competitiveness at European level: *"The EP and those who supported this vote will have to take responsibility of their choice "* said Del Boca.

Small business need better support to create jobs in the EU, and not irrational constraints merely based on ideological statements and not facts and figures; moreover, including owner-operator drivers into the directive will be an unacceptable precedent in the limitation of rights of the self-employed worker in general.

Division between working time and private time of the self-employed drivers is impossible; registration, monitoring and enforcement is not feasible. EU Governments will have to implement what is substantially not-implementable.

"I express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Edith Bauer's big effort to support the EC proposal, and also to all those MEPs who listened, understood and voted for the exclusion of own operators" concluded Del Boca.

UETR urges the European Commission to present a new proposal cutting unnecessary administrative burdens for "real" self-employed drivers, balancing competitiveness and social security for a better business climate.

UETR *Union européenne des transporteurs routiers* represents and defends the interests of around 200.000 freight transport companies in Europe, mostly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with a total capacity of 430.000 vehicles.

