UNION EUROPÉENNE DES TRANSPORTEURS ROUTIERS

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PRESS RELEASE

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(begin press release)

UETR WELCOMES THE GENERAL APPROACH SHOWED BY COMMISSION AND STAKEHOLDERS ON ROAD CHARGING

The European Road Haulers Associations expresses its appreciation for Commissioner Kallas' approach to the earmarking issue in the context of the recent discussion on fair and efficient road pricing involving policy makers and stakeholders.
UETR is not against the "user pays" principle but on the express condition that it applies to all users and all vehicles- a usage levy must therefore integrally be earmarked to the maintenance and expansion of the infrastructure and to road transport sector in order to encourage sustainable mobility and smart technologies.
Moreover, the introduction of road charges should be partly compensated by the reduction of other taxes and charges (vehicle taxation, etc.) and with no cross-subsidies (e. g. the use of revenues of a road charge for investments in inland waterways or public transport).

Another concern for UETR is the patchwork of incompatible tolling schemes in Europe- implementation of the European Electronic Toll Service (EETS) is still far away in the EU, while the needs of the market and circulation of goods cannot wait.
Cheaper technology and more competition between service providers in different Member States are reducing the costs for governments to organise an electronic tolling system.
UETR hopes that new initiatives and proposals from the European Commission will further accelerate the process, making closer the goal of fully interoperable national systems, with a single and cheap on-board device facilitating payment throughout the EU.

(end press release)

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UETR is the European umbrella organization representing and defending the interests of more than 200.000 road transport undertakings (mostly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) from Western and Eastern EU Member States federations, with a total capacity of more than 430.000 commercial vehicles. Within the Union, 95% of the road haulage companies are micro-enterprises with less than 10 employees (small firms or one-man operations). For more information visit www.uetr.eu

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