



PRESS RELEASE

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(begin press release)

UETR WELCOMES WISE MEN'S REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EU ROAD HAULAGE MARKET

The European Road Hauliers Associations welcomes the recommendations published today by the High Level Group set up by Commissioner for Transport Mr. Siim Kallas to review the state of the European Union's internal market in road freight transport.

UETR President Francesco Del Boca says: "We welcome the wise men's report which strongly endorses many of our views. Like the High Level Group, we believe that the opening needs a sensible transition period and that the integration of the markets must go absolutely hand in hand with harmonization. We also believe that the European Union should think about how best it can map its policies and programmes in order to ensure fair competition among operators".

The report contains four chapters in its recommendations and conclusions, many of which reflect UETR's point of view:

- Development of cabotage in line with harmonization;
- Full enforcement and extension of joint liability principle for all actors of the supply chain;
- Clear mention of social dumping problem and distortions in competition;
- Tackling the matter of operating costs;
- Posting of Workers Directive and False Self employed drivers;
- Excessive financial burden of access to profession

"There is still much to do before any decision on further opening of domestic road transport markets, including further liberalisation of cabotage, is made. We appreciate very much the great work done by the Group and thank those academic experts who tackled such delicate issues with great sensitivity" says UETR Secretary General Marco Diggioia.



The distinction between linked and non-linked cabotage needs further analysis and clarification but seems to go in the right direction separating international movements from domestic transports, representing the most controversial issue in many countries.

"We are also glad that the report provides an exhaustive and comparative analysis of operating costs, that we had not seen in a document at European level so far. Moreover, wise men recommends the implementation of a system of joint liability, e. g. for customers providing instruction for transports to undertakings. Of that I am personally very pleased because UETR has always called for a full and effective system of co-liability in the whole supply chain at EU level" Digioia concludes.

(end press release)

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

