



Warsaw, 23 February 2021

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Mrs. Karima Delli MEP
Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee

Dear Mrs. Delli,

Since few days all of us are observing, with rising concern, the chaos on EU internal borders caused by Germany's decision to introduce obligatory Covid-19 tests for drivers. This situation endangers not only the continuity of the supply chains but foremost health and safety of the drivers.

We all agree, that fight against Covid-19 pandemic requires strong measures. This is why European hauliers have introduced safety measures in order to protect drivers along the way. The widely accepted principle, that international drivers should be excluded from obligatory tests, has proven to be correct. Due to the fact, that drivers spend the most of their time alone in their cabins, they are not a group of professionals that transmit the virus. This has been confirmed recently during Christmas time, when 30 000 drivers have been tested on the French and UK border. Only a slight percentage of the tests was positive.

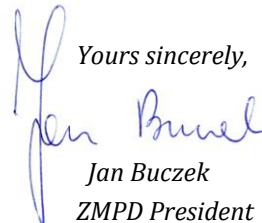
The decision taken by Germany is contrary to recently adopted Council recommendation on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the European Commission Communication on Green Lanes. In addition, this has led to a number of retaliation measures taken by other Member States. As a result, we experience significant delivery delays and financial losses not only for producers and consumers but also hauliers.

However, we are especially concerned with the situation of the drivers. In reality, due to introduced measures, some drivers are required to carry out tests even each 400km. Due to great mobility of the sector tests are being carried out practically "along the way". This leads to long queues in front of testing centres and creates great threat to drivers' health and safety. In addition, there are long queues on the borders and drivers are forced to wait long hours, often without access to toilets, water and food.

Together with IRU we have sent a letter to Chancellor Angela Marker with a plea to withdraw obligatory tests for drivers. The Transport and Tourism Committee together with European Commission will held a debate on Green Lanes on the 24th of February. This is why we would like to call on you, on behalf of Polish and European drivers and hauliers, to take a strong position on behalf of the TRAN Committee. The European Parliament shall defend rights and safety of the drivers!

We stay at your disposal should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Buczek
ZMPD President