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Brussels news

CLECAT CALLS FOR NEW EFFORTS TO ENSURE SENSIBLE, BALANCED LEGISLATION FOR ROAD TRANSPORT FOLLOWING EP VOTE

On 4 July, the European Parliament rejected a set of legislative proposals on posting of workers, cabotage and driving and rest times in its Plenary Meeting in Strasbourg. The Plenary rejected the proposed amendments to the dossiers, upon which all of them were referred back to the TRAN Committee for further consideration in accordance with Rule 59(4) of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Nicolette van der Jagt, Director General of CLECAT said: "It is unfortunate that there was no majority for the TRAN mandate which was the result of long and intense discussions in the TRAN Committee, involving many discussions with industry and other stakeholders. This ensured a balanced series of reports with careful consideration of the cross-border nature of international road transport."

However, CLECAT would rather redouble our efforts on working out sensible legislation which can convince those who are not necessarily experts in the exact nature of international transport, than risk creating chaos and a patchwork of protectionism and liberalisation.

With more than 50 associations in Europe supporting the exclusion of international transport from the posting proposal of the European Commission's first Mobility Package, we will continue to support endeavours to achieve balanced, proportionate and enforceable rules for the transport and logistics sector.

It is quite clear that we have convinced many MEPs that applying posting rules to international transport would be an unenforceable and disproportionate measure that will not solve any of the issues which currently challenge the transport market. On the contrary, the application of such rules will likely cause a growth in self-employed drivers with no social protection.

It is a shame that it is now doubtful whether an agreement will be struck before the European elections in 2019 which would prevent the continued imposition of national posting regimes.

COMBINED TRANSPORT VOTE

On 10 July the Transport Committee will vote on the draft report by Daniela Aiuto MEP on the revision of the Combined Transport Directive. CLECAT finds that Ms Aiuto's draft report is a very positive document, which reinforces the Commission's strong proposal for modernising the EU legislative framework for combined transport. In particular, the provisions on distance limitations bring necessary flexibility in order to incentivize combined transport. As such, we support the rapporteur's amendments on distance limitations and urge MEPs to support them.

Among the amendments tabled by Committee members, there are a good number to which CLECAT can offer its support, particularly those relating to digitalisation, administrative simplification and provision of support measures for Combined Transport operations and infrastructure.

On the other hand, we urge MEPs to reject amendments which would disrupt the single market and disincentivize combined transport as an efficient logistics option, namely those which would apply posting of workers rules to Combined Transport, those which would remove the Cabotage Exemption (i.e. Article 4 of the Directive), and those which would refuse support to Combined Transport operations transiting a Member State.

We trust that MEPs will take these views into account in order to ensure a positive legislative framework which makes Combined Transport an attractive option for efficient logistics in Europe.

SAVE THE DATE: 15 NOVEMBER FREIGHT FORWARDERS FORUM



CLECAT's annual Freight Forwarders Forum entitled "**Customs, Trade and Skills – *What's the deal?***" will take place on the 15th November at the WCO in Brussels.

The customs and trade landscape as we have known it in recent decades is changing drastically. For many years, initiatives breaking down trade barriers through the expansion of the EU were successful, reducing duties and simplifying border procedures. Today, increasing political and social issues across the globe are reversing these efforts. Trade conflicts, Brexit, tax evasion, immigration, terrorism and threats to consumers and the environment are all realities that the European Union must face. Finding the balance between protecting society and facilitating compliant trade has become increasingly difficult.

The morning session '**Future-proofing the customs profession**' will deal with the challenges the public and private sectors are facing for the recruitment and education of sufficient people.

The afternoon part of the FFF2018 '**a changing landscape**' will provide a broad view of how politics and populism are influencing trade and customs by discussing various subjects like *Trade Wars, Brexit, Export Controls and Sanctions*. The event will provide insight into increasing non-fiscal barriers for trade with subjects like the EU Advance Cargo Information System (*ICS2 & PLACI*), the new Official Controls Regulation for *Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspections* and increasing challenges with *Intellectual Property Rights*. The event will equally have an exchange of views on eCommerce, which has grown exponentially in recent years and has become an integral part of trade and logistics. The



New EU VAT System, the new WCO eCommerce Framework and the emerging role of customs agents and forwarders in eCommerce will be debated.

More information will be available at the CLECAT conference webpages shortly, but for now **SAVE THE DATE!**

PRIORITIES OF THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCY



The Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Mr Norbert Hofer, will present the priorities of the Austrian Presidency for the second half of 2018 to the Transport Committee of the European Parliament. The presentation will take place on Tuesday 10 July 2018 from 10:30 and will be webstreamed.

Regarding the transport sector, the Austrian Presidency plans on moving towards sustainable, fair, competitive and safe transport systems. In that regard, the work on the dossiers of the mobility packages will be continued and great importance has also been attached to the revision of the TEN-T Network and the infrastructure financing rules. Additional key priorities include the revision of transport infrastructure, the European Electronic Toll Service (EETS), the promotion of clean and eco-friendly road transport vehicles and combined transport, as measures in these areas can greatly contribute to energy-efficient and low-emission mobility. Furthermore, Austria announced that they would work on increasing efficiency in the area of rail freight transport on an informal basis although no concrete dossier is currently pending on that matter.

For inland waterways, the Presidency announced that it will emphasise the potential of this mode of transport and the necessity to continue with the respective incentive programmes. Regarding maritime transport, the Presidency announced that it would use its best efforts to reach an agreement on the Directive on port reception facilities and try to make good progress regarding the proposals on the establishment of a Maritime Single Window environment, the seafarer training, the recognition of certificates and the support of the IMO framework.

Forthcoming events

CLECAT MEETINGS

SAVE THE DATE: INTERMEDIATE CLECAT CUSTOMS & INDIRECT TAXATION INSTITUTE
26 – 27 July, Brussels, Belgium

CLECAT/FIATA ROAD INSTITUTE MEETING
7 September, Prague

FIATA WORLD CONGRESS
26-29 September, New Delhi

CLECAT Board Meeting
14 November, Brussels, Belgium



FFF2018 – CUSTOMS, TRADE and SKILLS – What’s the Deal?

15 November, Brussels, Belgium

OTHER EVENTS WITH CLECAT PARTICIPATION

High-Level Stakeholder Consultation Event - EU Long-Term Decarbonisation Strategy

10-11 July, Brussels

EP MEETINGS

European Parliament TRAN Committee

9 - 10 July

European Parliament Plenary Session

12 - 14 July, Brussels

Contact

Nicolette van der Jagt

Director General CLECAT

Rue du Commerce 77, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel +32 2 503 4705 / Fax +32 2 503 47 52

E-mail nicolettevdjagt@clecat.org / info@clecat.org

 @CLECAT_EU

www.clecat.org



European association for forwarding,
transport, logistics and customs services

