

22.03.2022

**Ms. Adina Vălean,**

**Commissioner for Transport**

JOINT LETTER ON BEHALF OF PL, LT, LV, EE

As the war in Ukraine rages, millions of civilians suffer from the unprovoked Russian military aggression. With thousands of civilian casualties, over 3 million people have now been forced to leave Ukraine; this number is growing each day by tens of thousands.

EU has been able to take decisive and unprecedented actions over these last few weeks. We have responded with a far-reaching package of measures spanning even in the transport field, for instance, in the aviation sector. However, Russia's machine of war is still being fueled by the dual-use goods transported daily by thousands of Russian and Belarussian lorries to support the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Therefore, following the recently adopted Versailles Declaration, which expressed the need to increase even further our pressure on Russia and Belarus, we call to follow up with additional measures in the land and maritime transport. As the transport sector is international by its very nature, we believe that these measures, to be effective, need to be adopted at the EU level.

In the field of road transport, we propose a temporary full prohibition of road freight transport, from and to the territory of Russia and Belarus. Moreover, we propose to exclude the Russian Federation and Belarus from the International Transport Forum (ITF) and to revoke the recognition of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) permits by the EU member countries for road transport carried out by hauliers established in the territory of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. Additionally, we consider the need to suspend the application of the Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) to transport operations with the Russian Federation and Belarus.

In the maritime sector, we urge the EU to take any necessary measures aiming at prohibiting fully or further restricting the entry into all EU ports of Russian and Belarussian vessels. There must not be an easy way to circumvent these prohibitions, therefore the maritime measures have to be implemented in tandem with the measures in the road transport sector.

To summarise, we consider that further steps could and should be taken swiftly in the land and maritime transport sectors to further limit the capabilities for the Russian Federation to sustain the aggression. We all hope for the fighting to stop as soon as possible. To that end only effective measures can bring tangible results and pressure Russia to stop the war. This will only happen when Russia's actions meet with a solidary, unanimous and strong response from the EU by adopting further targeted sanctions.

**Taavi Aas**



Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure  
ESTONIA

**Marius Skuodis**



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CC:

**Mr Jean-Baptiste Djebbari**, Minister Delegate for Transport, attached to the Minister for the Ecological Transition, French Presidency of the Council of the EU

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