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European Transport Workers' Federation  
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports  
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

To the attention of:

**Violeta Bulc**, Commissioner for Transport  
**Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility  
Cc. **Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission

Brussels, 4 October 2016

Dear Commissioner Bulc,  
Dear Commissioner Thyssen,

**Ref: ETF calls for the European Commission to end wage discrimination on basis of nationality in the EU road transport sector**

The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) urges you to take immediate EU-level action and eliminate wage discrimination based on nationality in the EU haulage market.

In the recent years, against the law, thousands of professional drivers from low-wage EU Member States - the so called non-resident drivers - have been working on permanent basis in and from Western European countries, on the minimum pay of their country of origin, invariably several times lower than the wage levels of the Member State hosting their activity.

Today, wage discrimination is one of the main sources of growing discontent among the non-resident drivers, as they wonder why - in a social Europe of laws and treaties protecting their rights - when working in and from France or Germany they are paid country of origin wages, while French and German drivers carrying out the same work are paid French, respectively German wages.

Pay discrimination comes in breach of Article 45 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, against the posting of workers EC rules and its implementation directive, against the Rome I Regulation and the accompanying ECJ ruling on its application in road transport (the Koelzsch case).

In 2017, the European Commission will be launching a road initiative. Till just recently there was hope that the political will is there to end pay discrimination in our sector. But signals so far are of high concern: infringement procedures launched by the European Commission against France and Germany with regard to the application of minimum wage in road transport, doubled by the intention of the European Commission to limit the application of the posting of workers directive for professional drivers.



President Lars Lindgren

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner  
Ekaterina Yordanova



As stated in the opening paragraph of this letter, the ETF calls for you to take measures to end the nationality-based wage discrimination between professional drivers within the EU. In doing so, you are kindly invited to take on board the ETF concrete proposals<sup>1</sup> on law enforcement in road transport, on the applicable law to the labour contract (Directive 97/71/EC and the Rome I Regulation), on cabotage and on the elimination of letterbox companies. Many of these proposals were endorsed by the European Parliament mid-September 2016, via the adoption - with 66% votes in favour - of a resolution on "Social dumping in the European Union". The resolution received massive support from five EP political groups and from MEPs from across Europe – West, East, North and South. This is a signal that social and wage dumping are recognised as a major problem across Europe.

The message conveyed to you by the European Transport Workers' Federation is: **Respect the professional drivers!** Adopt urgent measures to end wage discrimination in road transport, to fully support equal pay for equal work in the same place.

Yours sincerely,



Eduardo Chagas  
ETF General Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.etf-europe.org/etf-news-online.cfm/newsdetail/11431> and <http://www.etf-europe.org/etf-4002.cfm>



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