

Warsaw, 16th September 2022

Mr Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President for
the European Green Deal
European Commission

Ms Adina Vălean
Commissioner for transport
European Commission

Ms Kadri Simson
Commissioner for energy
European Commission

*Dear Mr President,
Dear Commissioners,*

On behalf of employers association Transport and Logistics Poland (TLP) I would like to draw your attention to the very disturbing issue of an energy and fuel crisis that all EU citizens have been facing last months. Sadly, it is also strictly related to road transport sector and EU provisions on compulsory return of vehicles to their home bases. In our opinion those provisions should be suspended with no further delay and should not apply to EU road transport operators.

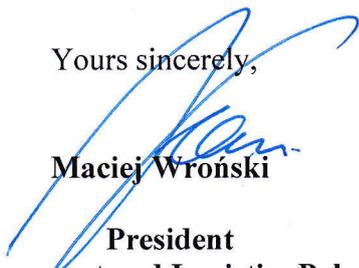
TLP has been raising this issue many times, yet it is still there and in current circumstances its negative effects are even more visible than before. Let us remind that every single vehicle engaged in international road transport should be used in the most effective way possible. By making artificial barriers such as compulsory vehicle returns, the EU legislators prevent hauliers from doing so. At the same time the EU introduces new proposals such as Green Deal which is supported by most of the road transport market users. In order to achieve its very ambitious goals hauliers invest enormous amounts of financial resources in low and zero-emission vehicles.

Nevertheless, low-emission, zero-emission or diesel-powered vehicles – all of them need energy or fuel to be on the move and deliver goods across the EU every day. Taking into account current energy and fuel crisis it would be very much desirable to suspend EU provisions on mandatory vehicle returns to their home bases. Every journey home, very often without any load, results in additional, unnecessary fuel or energy consumption by vehicles that could be simply avoided. We hear plans at the EU level to save energy in all EU member states. Why not to waive rules on vehicle return for a start? Millions of tonnes of fuel and energy could be saved by doing so.

Simultaneously, so called "4-day cooling off period" for cabotage operations in the EU members states also results in many empty trips. Again, additional fuel and energy consumption is involved here. This provision should also be suspended in order to effectively face fuel and energy crisis. It goes without saying vehicles should transport goods, not empty trailers/semi-trailers.

Given the above it would be very much appreciated if you could take all appropriate measures with a view to understanding our arguments and suspending vehicle return and cabotage cooling off period provisions on the EU level. That would result in vast energy and fuel savings in this extremely difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



Maciej Wroński

**President
Transport and Logistics Poland**