

Warsaw, 08 July 2026 r.

Mr Frederic Versini
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
MOVE C.1
Road Transport

European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr Versini,

On behalf of the Employers' Association Transport and Logistics Poland (TLP), I would like to draw the attention of the European Commission to the structural shortage of professional drivers across the European Union and to respectfully invite the Commission to consider measures that could contribute to removing certain regulatory barriers which continue to exacerbate this challenge.

According to the International Road Transport Union (IRU) Global Driver Shortage Report 2025, Europe is currently facing a shortage exceeding 500,000 professional drivers. Moreover, approximately 660,000 drivers are expected to retire by 2030. According to estimates prepared by TLP, Poland alone - the largest provider of international road freight transport services within the European Union - currently lacks between 100,000 and 120,000 professional drivers. This situation constitutes a significant risk to the resilience of the Union's internal market, supply chains and the overall competitiveness of the European economy.

As an interim measure pending the wider deployment of innovative transport technologies, including truck platooning, autonomous vehicles and the European Modular System (EMS), recruitment of qualified drivers from third countries - particularly from countries formally pursuing accession to the European Union - appears both necessary and justified. These countries include Türkiye, Ukraine, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Without addressing questions relating to residence and employment authorizations, one of the principal obstacles remains the absence of mechanisms enabling the recognition of professional qualifications obtained by drivers who have successfully completed the initial qualification and periodic training required under foreign systems aligned with Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of the European Parliament and of the Council. In many candidate countries, the relevant national legislation and training programs have already been substantially harmonized with the Union acquis as part of the accession process.

In light of the advanced stage of the accession process of these countries and the pressing needs of the Union's transport sector, we respectfully submit that consideration should be given to establishing a legal framework enabling Member States to recognize the initial qualification and periodic training certificates issued by candidate countries, provided that the European Commission has verified full compliance of their national legislation, training curricula and examination systems with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2022/2561.

The following options could, in particular, be considered:

- The conclusion of bilateral or multilateral arrangements concerning the mutual recognition of the professional qualifications of road transport drivers between the European Union and individual candidate countries;
- The use of legal instruments already available under existing association agreements. In the case of Türkiye, for example, the EU - Türkiye Association Council established under the Association Agreement and Customs Union framework could adopt a dedicated decision facilitating the mobility of professional drivers and eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens, including the requirement to repeat equivalent training;
- The introduction into Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of an explicit 'third-country equivalence clause' empowering the European Commission to adopt implementing decisions recognizing that the training and examination systems of specific third countries provide guarantees equivalent to those required under Union law.

We would be sincerely grateful if the European Commission would consider examining this matter and exploring possible legislative or policy solutions. We remain at Your disposal should any additional information or technical input be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Maciej Wroński

**President
Transport and Logistics Poland**