

Brussels, 5 June 2017

Guy Verhofstadt
President of ALDE Group
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear President,

On 31 May 2017, the Commission put forward its “Europe on the Move” legislative package, which comprises a wide range of initiatives aiming at clean, competitive and connected mobility in Europe. Despite the fact that this initiative could bring long-term benefits to European citizens by promoting jobs, growth and investment, widening consumers’ choices and lowering CO₂ emissions, we would like to draw your attention to the immediate, short-term difficulties that it would bring to the Polish road transport sector.

The mobility sector in Europe employs more than 11 million people and Polish companies account for a substantial part of the road-transport component. We welcome the Commission’s proposal for the transparency, simplicity and efficiency that it brings to the system, while aiming to cut costs for companies. However, we are concerned about the new posting rules, under which drivers would be regarded as posted workers if they spend three days or more in a given calendar month on the territory of another Member State, subjecting them to the minimum wage laws of that Member State. Although Polish transport companies are well appreciated in Europe for their professionalism and flexibility, labour costs still play an important role in shaping their competitive advantage. The new rules would significantly increase those costs and, by definition, make Polish road transport firms less competitive.

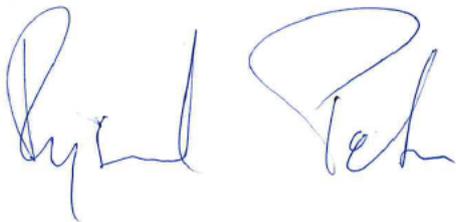
The European Union we joined in 2004 was a Union of free movement of people, goods and services. These freedoms remain at the heart of European integration. Poland opened its borders and its markets, but also profited from similar openness on the part of most Members States from day one. That allowed Polish economy to faster catch up with the West. It is changing in compliance with the EU’s high social and environmental standards.

We do notice that the new rules proposed by the Commission would improve social and employment conditions for workers in the road haulage market. That is a positive change that the drivers deserve. Still, we consider the limit of three days quite drastic and hard to implement in the short run.

The Commission's proposal will be subject to a legislative process in the Council and the European Parliament. Nowoczesna believes that a suitable compromise on the dossier would be to increase the number of days after which a posting takes place to 5-7 days. We ask you and the ALDE members of the Committee on Transport and Tourism to propose and support the appropriate amendments.

I would like to use the opportunity of my next visit to Brussels, on 22-23 June, to discuss this issue with the Prime Ministers from our liberal family, as well as with those ALDE members of the European Parliament who will be directly involved in the work on this legislative file.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized first name and a last name, appearing to read 'Ryszard Petru'.

Ryszard Petru