



Mrs. Adina Vălean,
European Commissioner for Transports

Mrs. Ylva Johansson,
European Commissioner for Home Affairs

Mr. Nicolas Schmit,
European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Brussels, May 19th 2021

Dear Commissioner Vălean,
Dear Commissioner Johansson,
Dear Commissioner Schmit,

We are writing to you in the aftermath of the brutal killing of a 39-year-old Romanian driver in a car park in France during the night of Sunday to Monday 17th of May 2021. According to the information received from the French Prosecutor of Amiens, the Romanian driver and his wife, also a truck driver, were transporting goods from UK to Spain and decided to spend the night in a service area on the A28, between Abbeville and Rouen. The crime happened right in front of the victim's wife. Also, according to media reports, emergency assistance was slow to arrive on the scene.

Last week, migrants armed with stones blocked traffic on the ring road leading to the port of Calais as they tried to board trucks to reach UK. The video reports that emerged from the shocking scenes show the damage caused to the trucks and the increasing threats to the drivers' security on that route.

Many truck drivers already contacted us and it appears that, by all means, these are not just unfortunate and isolated incidents happening in one Member State only. They are merely examples of a long series of beatings, violent attacks, cargo thefts and killings of truck drivers in Europe's parking areas, that seem to have become areas of lawlessness and insecurity. Truck drivers feel abandoned and question the passivity of Member States and European authorities alike in tackling the safety of employees in cross-border activities. Numerous truck drivers are in a particularly vulnerable situation as regards their working conditions and safety and they do not dispose of the proper tools to report abuses.

As you may recall, Renew Europe has long fought in June 2020 to adopt a Resolution on the European protection of cross-border and seasonal workers in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. We need to ensure the proper implementation and enforcement of applicable EU legislation as regards the rights of cross-border and seasonal workers. We asked you and the

Member States to implement measures to ensure that the health and safety of cross-border and seasonal workers and cross-border entrepreneurs and self-employed persons are safeguarded during their travel.

In particular, urgent measures are needed to protect truck drivers and their cargo, as well as to facilitate the provision of safer and more secure parking areas for trucks. These measures should be based on a thorough and updated analysis of the security situation and challenges to safe parking areas in all Member States. Rather than rely on media reports, we should be able to have at EU level a clear picture of the number and types of incidents involving drivers in order to build better and more targeted policy answers.

As a follow-up to the study on safe and secure parking places for trucks¹, the European Commission has put into place an expert group and announced that it envisages to contribute to the funding of safer parking areas. We urge you to accelerate work in this direction and coordinate with Member States, so that we can see concrete improvements for Europe's truck drivers soon.

As the maintenance of law and order as well as the safeguarding of internal security fall within the primary responsibility of the Member States, as stated in Article 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), we urge you to work with the Member States and come up with new initiatives for improving, in a more coordinated and effective way, the security of truck drivers throughout Europe, including through enhanced cooperation between law enforcement authorities and better crime prevention measures in parking areas.

We stand ready to work with you towards achieving these goals, as we believe that systemic measures are necessary in order to address these growing concerns. Truck drivers are an essential category of workers, as shown also during the recent COVID -19 crisis, where they continued to deliver goods to where they are needed, despite all the hardships faced. It is therefore essential that we take action now to preserve their security and protect their rights at EU level.

Sincerely yours,

Dacian Cioloş, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of Renew Europe Group
Ramona Strugariu, Member of the European Parliament
Vlad Gheorghie, Member of the European Parliament
Dragoş Pişlaru, Member of the European Parliament
Dragoş Tudorache, Member of the European Parliament
Vlad Botoş, Member of the European Parliament
Alin Mituţa, Member of the European Parliament
Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Member of the European Parliament

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/studies/road_en