



## The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### ECG CALLS FOR ACTION ON TRUCK STOPPAGES

##### Industrial action harms industry and workers

ECG has called for immediate action by the Italian government to prevent wildcat industrial action causing further disruption to the country's auto industry supply chain.

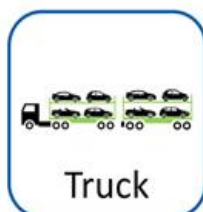
"Owners of small car-transport businesses in Italy have been protesting for some time over the current difficult economic climate, and we have sympathy for their predicament" said ECG.

"At the same time, we cannot accept protests that block access to car factories, terminals and compounds. Such action threatens the livelihoods of millions of workers and creates financial losses running into the tens of millions of euros for automakers, dealers and logistics operators themselves."

ECG urged the authorities to intervene where such protests threaten the work of other sectors of the business by blocking access to such facilities. Thus far, Italian logistics operators have worked hard and relatively successfully to repair the damage caused by this industrial action, but it is taking a toll nonetheless.

These small business owners – whether lone operators or running small fleets of car transporters – have suffered badly through the economic crisis. Over the last month, however, they have taken to expressing their discontent and publicising their somewhat unfocused demands, by parking their vehicles where they can cause maximum disruption, often blockading key industry sites such as car plants and compounds.

The resulting turmoil could not come at a worse time for the Italian auto industry as a whole, which is struggling in the face of weakening demand and tumbling sales volumes. At a time when the automotive industry needs to operate as efficiently and productively as possible in order to keep its head above water, the supply chain must be protected.



## Background for the Editors

ECG, the Association of European Vehicle Logistics, has been the voice of the Finished Vehicle Logistics industry in Europe since 1997. ECG represents the interests of almost 100 member companies, from family owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector. We represent all transport modes at EU level.

ECG Members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies and vehicle leasing operators in 25 Member States, Turkey and Russia. They own or operate more than 373 car-carrying ships, 13,000 purpose built railway wagons, 22 river barges and 17,600 road transporters. As a major employer, the industry plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. Today, ECG members have an aggregate turnover of €16.2 billion and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €34 billion. More than 64,700 people are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 160,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.

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