



The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

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PRESS RELEASE

ECG and IRU publish joint statement on e-CMR

EU Member States should ratify the e-CMR Protocol without delay

ECG and IRU published today their joint statement on e-CMR calling for the swift ratification of the e-CMR Protocol by all Member States. The application of e-CMR would bring with it very positive benefits for both companies and the environment alike: it would lead to less use of paper; no costs for archiving and transporting documents, as well as real-time processing of information in a multilingual environment. This makes logistics operations easier for the transporting company, the truck driver and the authorities.

Mike Sturgeon, Executive Director of ECG stated: “We are seeing incredible technological advances as the pace of change wrought by digitalisation continues to increase. However, it is essential that legislation catches up. The slow implementation of e-CMR is a classic example of bureaucracy holding back progress and preventing industry from delivering significant benefits.”

Zeljko Jeftic, Head - Global Innovation at IRU said: “e-CMR is key to the future of logistics operations and will play a critical role in the digitalisation of trade facilitation systems. Its recent launch for a transport between France and Spain proves the benefits of increased efficiency and reduced operational costs – and we look forward to seeing e-CMR rolled-out across more countries.”

The Protocol on the electronic consignment notes was signed in 2008 at a meeting of the Transport Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and came into effect in 2011. To date only 11 countries have ratified it. These are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Denmark, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland.

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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 around 100 member companies, from family owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector. ECG represents all transport modes at EU level – road, rail, maritime and fluvial. ECG Members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies and vehicle leasing operators in the 28 Member States of the European Union as well as Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and beyond. They own or operate more than 508 car-carrying ships, 16,000 purpose-built railway wagons, 25 river barges and more than 22,134 road transporters.

As a major employer, the finished vehicle logistics sector plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. ECG members have an aggregate turnover of around €27.1bn and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €64.4bn. More than 116,000 Europeans are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 294,239 are indirectly employed in this sector.