



German border controls continue to damage supply chains

Brussels, Friday 19 February 2021

ECG – the Association of European Vehicle Logistics reports that the border restrictions introduced at German borders with the Tyrol region and the Czech Republic since 12 February continue to cause significant delays. The new rules were applied with no notice and therefore came into force before there was any opportunity to develop the necessary infrastructure for drivers to prepare or to take COVID tests.

The resulting traffic jams stretched for many kilometres throughout the week and groups of drivers were seen queueing at the borders with no application of social distancing and often in extremely cold conditions. These circumstances demonstrate a total lack of respect for professional drivers and expose them to unnecessary risk.

Following this a chain reaction was started which saw the chaos extended as neighbouring countries mirrored the German requirements and created delays at their own borders.

As Germany promises regular reviews of those countries it regards as high risk the industry fears for further restrictions being applied at other borders without warning. The

Green Lanes promoted by the European Commission since early in the current crisis must be protected at all costs and allowed to function correctly in order to allow supply chains to flow.

ECG President, Mr. Wolfgang Göbel, stated “reaction from the European Commission towards the German government is far too weak”. Drivers should be allowed to stay in their cabs, where they are not exposed to risk of infection, and to keep driving. Only in this way will the supply chains keep moving and Europe’s industries be able to continue to function.

Note to editors:

ECG is the established platform for the outbound automotive logistics sector bringing together logistics service providers, manufacturer logistics managers and suppliers to the sector. ECG aims to facilitate non-commercial collaboration between member companies and assist them in sharing best practices in many operational areas, especially the harmonisation of operational standards.

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About ECG

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 over 130 member companies and partners, 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 across the EU as well as in Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and beyond. They own or operate more than 380 car-carrying ships, 14,900 purpose-built railway wagons, 28 river barges and more than 27,800 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 €24.5bn and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €64bn. [More than 112,000 Europeans are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 230,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.](#)

