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Mr Roeland van Bockel  
European Commission  
DG Transport and energy  
Unit J4  
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 9 December 2007  
Prot. N° 1082/OL

### **Crime prevention in the transport chain – co-operation with the police**

Dear Mr van Bockel,

Thank you very much again for the very useful meeting of 30 October 2007.

In the meantime, UEAPME has consulted its members and is now able to take a clear position on your proposal. The UEAPME comments are also supported by UETR, the European association of small haulage contractors.

#### **Cross-border co-operation between transport police forces**

UEAPME would certainly be prepared to promote a better cross-border co-operation of the transport police and a better co-operation between transport police and governments. The EU should put in place structures to centralise intelligence on transport-related crime and allow an unbureaucratic exchange between Member States. UEAPME members would support this initiative at regional level. UEAPME itself is prepared to contact the EU transport ministers, if requested by the Commission.

The aim must be to avoid new legislation / certification schemes for the transport sector and measures must offer added value for member businesses. This cannot be easily achieved by European initiatives but through co-operation between police and the transport sector at national and regional levels.

Belgium has developed good practice in this area (AULA team). Our members report on a good co-operation between Belgian and Dutch transport police which helped reduce crime in this area. However, the co-operation with other countries still seems problematic. Also

other countries, such as Finland, have established efficient co-operation between police and the transport industry. Such best practice examples should be disseminated across Europe. UEAPME is prepared to offer its vast horizontal and sectoral network for such awareness raising measures.

#### **Harmonised set of electronic forms**

UEAPME also sees the trend towards electronic data exchange and the need to develop a single harmonised system. However, being a horizontal organisation, UEAPME is unfortunately not in a position to become a driving force in this matter. The same applies to other horizontal employers' associations and probably also to the European Commission and the police.

The initiative for such standardisation work must clearly come from the transport sector itself.

If such a standard was to be developed, UEAPME would examine to what extent direct participation in the standardisation work is necessary and desirable.

#### **Police access to a part of the electronic data flow**

UEAPME cannot take any commitment, on behalf of its members, regarding the automatic access of police to certain electronic data. The only area, in which national member associations have to transpose UEAPME commitments, is the European social dialogue.

This case is different. Decisions in this respect can only be taken by Member States following discussions with all stakeholders. Whilst horizontal associations such as UEAPME and its national members certainly have a role to play in the discussions, all relevant representatives from the transport industry should be involved, too.

Our consultation showed that small businesses are reluctant to support automatic police access to electronic data. Our members see a number of privacy-related problems and an increased risk of industrial espionage.

Moreover, the Commission and police should provide clear information, as to how this system would help prevent theft during transport. Many member expressed doubts about the added value of this proposal for transport businesses.

Finally, it is necessary to define more clearly, which supply chains the police would like to include in this system (transport from outside the EU up until the end-user in the EU, local transports for example between a manufacturer of construction material and a nearby building site etc.). To establish this, a study should be conducted to identify the levels of risk linked to each part of the transport chain. Without a clear idea of risk levels, it will be impossible to develop proportionate measures.

Yours sincerely,



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Director for sectoral policy

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