Ensuring basic road freight connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union

2018/0436(COD) - 04/02/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted the report by Isabella DE MONTE (S&D, IT) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules ensuring basic road freight connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union.

The proposal provides for temporary measures to regulate the transport of goods by road between the Union and the United Kingdom in the absence of an agreement on the latter's withdrawal. It aims to allow UK operators to temporarily transport goods to the EU for 9 months (until 31 December 2019), provided that the United Kingdom grants equivalent rights to EU road hauliers and subject to the conditions of fair competition.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows:

Authorised carriage

Members proposed replacing the notion of "bilateral carriage" of goods by the notion of "authorised carriage" which would cover:

- a laden journey undertaken by a vehicle from the territory of the Union to the territory of the United Kingdom or vice versa, with or without transit through one or more Member States or third countries;

- a laden journey undertaken by a vehicle from the territory of the United Kingdom to the territory of the United Kingdom with transit through the territory of the Union;

- an unladen journeyin connection with the above-mentioned transport operations.

Equivalence of rights and fair competition

The Commission could, by means of delegated acts:

- suspend the application of the regulation when equivalent rights are not granted to EU road hauliers or when the rights granted are minimal; or

- establish limits to the allowable capacity available to UK road haulage operators or to the number of journeys or to both; or

- adopt other appropriate measures, such as financial duties or operational restrictions.