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

2018/0436(COD) - 27/03/2019 - Final act

PURPOSE: to ensure basic connectivity for road freight and passenger transport in order to mitigate the most serious disruptions that may result from leaving the UK without a withdrawal agreement.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2019/501 of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules ensuring basic road freight and road passenger connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union.

CONTENT: this Regulation lays down temporary measures governing the carriage of goods by road, as well as the provision of regular and special regular passenger transport services by coach and bus, between the Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to avoid serious disruption and any risk of disruption to public order which might result from a Brexit without an agreement.

These measures shall enable road haulage operators and coach and bus service operators licensed in the United Kingdom to carry goods and passengers by road between the territory of the latter and of the remaining 27 Member States. The rights thus conferred shall be conditional upon the conferral of equivalent rights and be subject to certain conditions ensuring fair competition.

Freight transport

The Regulation allows:

- a laden journey of 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;
- following laden journeys from the territory of the United Kingdom covered by the above point, the performance, within 7 days after unloading on the territory of the Union, of a maximum of two additional loading and unloading operations on the territory of the Union for a period of 4 months from the first day of application of the regulation, and one operation within 7 days following unloading on the territory of the Union, during the following 3 months;
- the movement of a laden vehicle from the territory of the United Kingdom to the territory of the United Kingdom, with transit through the territory of the Union.

Authorised carriage of passengers by coach and bus

The Regulation shall cover:

- the movement of a coach or bus to carry passengers 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;
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the movement of a coach or bus to carry passengers from the territory of the United Kingdom to the territory of the United Kingdom, with transit through the territory of the Union;
- the pick-up and drop-off of passengers in the border region of Ireland on special regular and regular international services between Ireland and Northern Ireland until 30 September 2019.

Equivalence of rights and fair competition

The Commission shall, by means of delegated acts:

- suspend the application of the regulation when equivalent rights are not granted to EU road hauliers or coach operators or when the rights granted are minimal; or
- limit the capacity or number of authorised journeys of United Kingdom road hauliers or coach operators, or both; or
- adopt operating restrictions related to vehicle types or traffic conditions.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 28.3.2019. The Regulation shall apply from the day following that on which the Treaties cease to apply to the United Kingdom pursuant to Article 50(3) TEU. It shall cease to apply on 31.12.2019.