

EU/Ukraine Agreement on the carriage of freight by road

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PURPOSE: to approve the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the carriage of freight by road.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: in view of the important disruptions in the transport sector in Ukraine caused by the war of aggression undertaken by Russia, it is necessary to find alternative routes by road for Ukraine to export its stocks of grain, fuel, foodstuffs and other relevant goods.

Given that permits granted in the framework of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) multilateral quota system within the International Transport Forum and existing bilateral agreements with Ukraine do not allow for the necessary flexibility for Ukrainian road haulage operators to increase and plan ahead their operations through and with the European Union, it is crucial to liberalise the transport of freight by road for bilateral operations as well as for transit.

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal is to approve the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the carriage of freight by road.

The agreement aims at **temporarily facilitating the road transport of goods between and through the territories of the European Union and Ukraine** by granting additional transit and haulage rights between the Parties to carriers established in one of the Parties, taking into account the repercussions of the war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine and the significant disruption it is causing to the transport sector in the country.

The agreement also includes measures which aim to facilitate the **recognition of driver documents**. It provides for specific measures to exempt drivers from the requirement to present an international driving permit, recognise decisions taken by Ukraine to extend the administrative validity of driver documents and facilitate the exchange of information between the competent authorities of the two Parties with the aim of combatting fraud and forgery of driver documents.

This road transport agreement would therefore replace the existing bilateral transport agreements between the Member States and Ukraine and would facilitate the use of alternative road routes for transport operators, as bilateral operations and transit would be liberalised between the two parties.