



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 29 November 2023
(OR. en)

16067/23

TRANS 541
RELEX 1397

INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: The impact of the functioning of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the carriage of freight by road on the transport sector
– Information from the Polish, Hungarian and Slovak delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Polish, Hungarian and Slovak delegations on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 4 December 2023.

TTE Transport Council on 4th December 2023

AOB: The impact of the functioning of the *Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the carriage of freight by road on the transport sector*

Information from the Polish, Hungarian and Slovak delegations

Since the beginning of the unprovoked aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, EU Member States have been taking extensive measures aimed at giving Ukraine as much support as possible. One of dimensions of this support was the signature by the European Union of an Agreement temporarily liberalizing the rules for commercial road freight transport operations between the European Union and Ukraine in the summer of 2022.

The entry into force of the Agreement has led to significant changes in the road freight market between the European Union and Ukraine. The road transport industry indicates that a significant number of Ukrainian road carriers are active in the Common Market. Such situation, together with the suboptimal functioning of the electronic queuing system of trucks for clearance introduced by Ukraine (*e-Cherha*), negatively affects the competitiveness and economic situation of the entities of the road transport industry of the Member States. Representatives of the road transport industry from several Member States are raising expectations about the need to counteract the negative effects of the agreement liberalizing transport. For instance, this situation has led to an ongoing protest by hauliers on access roads to Polish border crossing points with Ukraine since 6th November of this year.

Taking into consideration that this issue has not been discussed among the EU transport Ministers yet, it seems reasonable to initiate a **joint analysis of the impact of the Agreement on the road transport sector** in the EU and the **discussion on the measures, which could be taken at the European Union level** to address this challenge. The analysis should also include an **issue of amendments** to the *Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the carriage of freight by road*, which will allow to better protect the interests of the EU road transport industry, the situation of which has worsened by the liberalization of transport between the EU and Ukraine.