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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Union position for a request to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to bring truck blockages in the Republic of Belarus to the attention of UNECE members  
- Approval

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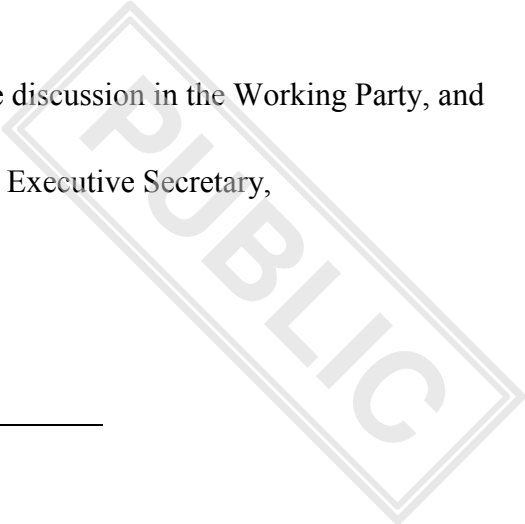
1. On 11 February 2026, the Commission informed the Working Party on Land Transport of the situation concerning the continued blocking of Lithuanian and Polish registered heavy-duty vehicles by the Belarusian authorities close to border crossing points.
2. The Commission proposes that the Presidency request the UNECE Executive Secretary to discuss the matter at the upcoming meetings of the UNECE Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) and/or the AETR Expert Group.
3. The issue was examined by the Working Party on Land Transport on 17 and 24 February 2026. Delegations supported the two Member States directly affected, highlighting that a coordinated approach by the EU could raise the awareness concerning risks to the cross-border circulation of vehicles carrying goods, and promote the search for a solution through discussion at the multilateral level. During the discussions, the two delegations directly affected made some drafting suggestions, most of which were incorporated into the draft text of the Union position and letter to the UNECE Executive Secretary during the final examination in the Working Party on 24 February 2026.

4. In light of the above, the Council is invited, subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, to:

- approve the Union position resulting from the discussion in the Working Party, and
- agree to the sending of a letter to the UNECE Executive Secretary,

as set out in the annex to this note.

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**TRUCK BLOCKAGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS****1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Between 29 October 2025 and 19 November 2025, Lithuania closed its border with Belarus, due to increasing safety and security concerns<sup>1</sup>. Exemptions for road transport were granted for Kaliningrad transit, diplomatic personnel, citizens of the EU, EEA and NATO countries, and for European hauliers returning to the EU.

According to the Lithuanian and Polish governments, the Belarusian government introduced restrictions on the movement of lorries and semi-trailers/trailers registered in those Member States within Belarusian territory, allowing them to enter/exit only through the section of the Belarusian border that borders the country of registration of the vehicle. As regards Polish vehicles, Belarusian authorities have introduced those restrictions starting in 2023.

In the context of these restrictions, 1 000 Lithuanian-registered vehicles and approximately 500 semi-trailers registered in Lithuania, but at the sole disposal of Polish carriers, have been prevented from returning to EU territory, due to successive decisions of the Belarussian authorities, despite the reopening of the border crossing points. The EU-registered vehicles have authoritatively been directed towards dedicated parking areas in Belarus, with a daily parking fee of EUR 120 per truck, with a risk of having the vehicles confiscated by the Belarusian authorities in the absence of payment.

Following the various Belarusian measures, a problem has arisen with combined vehicle combinations (a Polish tractor-trailer and a Lithuanian semi-trailer). Due to different Belarusian regulations for Polish and Lithuanian vehicles, these combinations currently have no way of leaving the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Foreign Affairs Council, 15 December 2025: [Belarus: Council broadens scope of sanctions regime to cover hybrid activities against EU member states - Consilium](#).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is a major international forum which facilitates cooperation among its member countries in road transport through policy dialogue, negotiation of legal instruments, development of regulations and norms, and exchange best practices as well as economic and technical expertise. All EU Member States, as well as Belarus, are Members of UNECE. The UNECE Secretariat is notably managing the European agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (AETR).

## 2. UNION POSITION

### *a. Impact of the measures taken by the Republic of Belarus*

The immobilisation of these vehicles by the Belarusian authorities is unacceptable. In particular, such actions are against the general principles of the UNECE Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)<sup>2</sup>, as well as the spirit of the AETR<sup>3</sup>.

The Belarusian authorities have not provided justifications to the Member States concerned.

It is therefore appropriate to inform UNECE and all AETR Contracting Parties in UNECE of the above-mentioned behaviour of the Belarusian authorities with regards to Lithuanian and Polish hauliers, in view of their gravity and potential systemic nature.

Given the current legal context of road haulage between the EU, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, the letter to the Executive Secretary should remain political and refrain from entering into legal considerations.

### *b. Necessity of a joint letter on behalf of the Union*

While carriage from Member States to third countries is still largely addressed through bilateral agreements between the Member States and those third countries, unilateral and unjustified actions such as the ones taken by the Belarusian authorities in this case could potentially affect any EU haulier in the future. Furthermore, a coordinated letter on behalf of the EU would carry more weight, providing more robust support to the most affected Member States, in particular those bordering Belarus.

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<sup>2</sup> [CERD](#); in particular point 1.2.1.1.

<sup>3</sup> See in particular the preamble of the [AETR](#).

### 3. REQUEST TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITHIN UNECE

In light of the above, a letter should be sent to the UNECE Executive Secretary (draft below) to request to discuss this topic at a meeting of an upcoming session of UNECE Working Party on Road Transport, and/or Expert Group on AETR, where the Union is represented by the Commission as a Member of the Expert Group, and as an Observer in the Working Party.

At the discussion, the representative of the Commission should express the key messages along the lines of the above-mentioned letter complemented, if appropriate, by the elements laid out in Sections 1 and 2 above.

#### *DRAFT LETTER TO THE UNECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY*

*Subject: Blockages of EU-registered trucks by the Belarusian authorities.*

Excellency,

Since 29 October 2025 [until...], the authorities of Belarus have immobilised hundreds of EU-registered heavy-duty vehicles in the Belarus-Lithuania border area, without providing any sound justification, and imposing a daily fee to avoid full confiscation of the vehicles and goods they contain.

These actions represent unacceptable behaviour by the Belarusian authorities.

The European Union urges the Belarussian government to release these EU-registered vehicles and to return them to their legitimate owners in the European Union swiftly and without additional obstacles.

Given the role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as a major international forum which facilitates cooperation among its member countries in road transport through policy dialogue, negotiation of international legal instruments, development of regulations and norms and exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise, in particular in the framework of the European agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (AETR), and in view of the gravity and potential systemic nature of the above-mentioned problems experienced by some EU hauliers, I would be grateful if you could convey this request to the Belarusian authorities, and to forward this correspondence to the other Contracting Parties of the AETR.

We would appreciate if this topic could be brought to the agenda of the next meeting of the UNECE Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) and earlier on the forum of its expert groups.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*[signed]*

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Member State holding the Council Presidency to the European Union;

Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1).

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