

Dear Chair and colleagues,

I am pleased to be together again, to the second meeting of the Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on transport responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

I cordially salute Chair de Wild and colleagues.

I would also like to thank the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics Secretariat and its Chair, for their active stance and outstanding insight onto this initiative.

Our colleagues and participants from the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group have done a remarkable work so far- and so quick- with the Working Document 10 “Taking stock of the resilience of the inland transport sector to pandemics and international emergency situations”.

This document is an important first step, not only necessary, but also instrumental in the ITC/ Bureau attempt to tackle, identify, adjust and even redefine where necessary, the inland transport both legally and practically, from the perspective of the challenges that such unprecedented times like the COVID 19 pandemics, might bring up to the surface.

We are still in the middle of the COVID 19 crisis that has triggered cross-country, multiple chain effects in all social, political and economic fields, along with inevitable major challenges for every Member State. Among these challenges, the economic consequences and implications are of the most significant, and they need an internationally coordinated response, to which the work of this Group could add its piece of contribution in the inland transport field.

Allow me to present now, an updated situation of the COVID-19 response measures taken by the Government of Romania in the field of inland transport, after the state of emergency - ended on 15th of May 2020, and which has been continued with the state of alert:

FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

The majority of the previous restrictions implemented during the emergency state, such as those concerning the **GREEN LANES**, the **closure of several border crossings** or the **entry restriction to third country nationals**, have been lifted

INTERVENTION**Robert R. DOBRE PhD.****director**

Strategic Projects Department

General Directorate for Investments, Strategic Projects and Project Monitoring
the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communication of Romania

Vice-Chair of the ITC Bureau

1. Suspension of international bus and other road transport services of civilians (04.04.2020 - 01.06.2020)

Throughout the period of state of emergency, international road passenger transport was suspended (regular services, special regular services and occasional services in international transport) for all the routes to and from Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Turkey.

Now all the above mentioned services within the international road have been resumed, for all the courses provided by the transport operators to and from Romania, with the observance of the established sanitary conditions.

2. Extension to the validity of documents used in road transport (30.03.2020)

The validity of documents used in road transport, issued by the Romanian public or authorized private entities, was extended over the term of 13th of August 2020, to cover the entire period of the state of alert, which is currently in force on the territory of Romania, and another 90 days from the ceasing of the **state of alert**.

3. Driver training certificates and safety adviser certificates (25.03.2020 - 30.11.2020)

Romania has notified and published both on the dedicated e-platform and on the Romanian Road Authority internet domain:

[Multilateral agreement M324](#) - concerning driver training certificates

[Multilateral Agreement M325](#) - concerning periodic or intermediate inspections of tanks

[Multilateral Agreement M326](#) - based on section 1.5.1. on periodic inspections and tests of pressure vessels for the transport of gases Class 2

[Multilateral Agreement M317](#) - concerning the carriage of solid medical or clinical waste, Category A

4. Roadworthiness certificates inspectors (16.03.2020 - 15.06.2020)

The validity of the professional certificates of the roadworthiness certificate inspectors and for the workshop managers was also extended accordingly.

FOR RAIL TRANSPORT**5. Suspension of direct rail transport services with border countries (18.03.2020)**

INTERVENTION**Robert R. DOBRE PhD.****director***Strategic Projects Department**General Directorate for Investments, Strategic Projects and Project Monitoring
the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communication of Romania*

Vice-Chair of the ITC Bureau

The international passenger traffic was open as regards Bulgaria and Hungary, whereas it remains closed as regards the other neighbouring states - Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Serbia.

6. Changes to the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail

Romania has notified (on the OTIF website):

[Multilateral Special Agreement RID 1/2020](#) concerning safety adviser certificates remain valid until November 30, 2020.

[Multilateral Special Agreement RID 2/2020](#) concerning periodic or intermediate inspections of tanks.

[Multilateral Special Agreement RID 3/2020](#) concerning the periodic inspection and test of pressure receptacles for the carriage of gases of Class 2.

[Multilateral Special Agreement RID 4/2020](#) concerning periodic or intermediate inspections of portable tanks and UN multiple-element gas containers (MEGCs).

FOR INLAND NAVIGATION TRANSPORT**7. Extension of seafarers certificates (16.03.2020 - 01.10.2020)**

The validity of special certificates, certificates of capacity, medical fitness, seafarers books, endorsements competence and proficiency expiring before 1 July 2020, was extended for a period of 3 months, but no later than 1 October 2020.

At the end of my intervention, I would like to express my confidence that together, through debates and exchanges like these we will succeed in addressing the gaps, agreeing on possible needed adjustments and in implementing the existing legal instruments and the coherent strategies, under the ITC umbrella. As transport is a vital sector for our economies, our contribution in enabling our citizens and companies to overcome and emerge stronger from the COVID 19 crisis remains essential. I believe this kind of restoration is possible through extensive investments in research, services and new technologies adapted to the new economic and social realities.

Thank you for your attention and keep up the good work!