

PRESS RELEASE

Heavy Goods Vehicles Directive: European Toll System Key for Competitiveness, Chambers say

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry strongly urged European decision-makers to adopt the Commission's proposal for the Directive on the Charging of Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"Chambers call on the European Parliament and the Council to finalize this feasible directive in this legislation period without delays or alteration. A harmonization of the European Toll System is desperately needed for improvements to the European road infrastructure and a better functioning of the Internal Market"*

"There is no point in having a functioning Internal Market for the Member States which allows for the free movement of goods unless we have efficient means of transport throughout that market. Hence the importance of the Heavy Goods Vehicles Directive."

For Chambers the following points are key to be adopted:

- **Make sure that all Member States apply standardized calculation methods;**
- **Internalize only costs of infrastructure use** (e.g. maintenance and development of infrastructure, noise reduction measures). There must be no internalization of external costs as they cannot be quantified objectively and therefore can get out of hand;
- **Avoid that toll revenues are used to fill arbitrary budgets needs;**
- **Allow cross-financing only in exceptional cases** - such as in sensitive regions and under certain conditions (e.g. exactly defined routes of corridors, precisely defined projects). In any case costs shall not be able to prohibit traffic. Unfettered cross-financing undermines total transport efficiency by subsidizing less efficient modes.

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