



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate C - Land  
**The Director**

Brussels  
MOVE.DDG2.C/EW

Ms Angelika Christ  
Secretary General  
CIPTA  
European paper and board  
converting industry  
Avenue Louise 250  
1050 Brussels

Dear Ms Christ,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 18 March 2020 addressed to President Ursula Von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioners Hogan, Breton and Vălean. You draw our attention to the importance of maintaining fluid international road transport operations during the coronavirus crisis to ensure the provision of packaging for food and medical supplies..

The Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport is closely following the situation at border crossings, together with our colleagues from the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, the Directorate-General for Trade, and the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union.

The Commission will take any actions required to deal with this situation in an effective way. We are doing our utmost to maintain mobility of freight and persons, while making sure that this does not go against the primary objective of containing the spread of the virus.

As you know on 16 March 2020 the Commission presented guidelines for border measures to protect the health of the population and to ensure that goods and essential services remain available<sup>1</sup>.

On 23 March 2020, the Commission adopted a Communication on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health

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<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316\\_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf)

and ensure the availability of goods and essential services (“Green Lane communication”)<sup>2</sup>.

The aforementioned Guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the Single Market. The Green Lanes communication stresses that the main EU internal border crossings should stay open to freight and the essential transport workers. Given the deep integration and complex nature of supply chains, there is a need to ensure the free circulation of all goods, including essential ones, on all vehicles, which should be able to use “green lane” border crossings in no more than 15 minutes.

We believe that these instruments provide Member States with the necessary room of manoeuvre to keep transport functioning and we are sure that with cooperation and coordinated action we will overcome this difficult situation for the sector.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Elisabeth WERNER

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<sup>2</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/2020-03-23-communication-green-lanes\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/2020-03-23-communication-green-lanes_en.pdf)