

Topic : “Driving times” and “Tachograph” Regulations

Brief description and main aims:

In May 2017, as part of the 1st mobility package, the European Commission proposed to revise the rules on certain social aspects in road transport (i.e. driving times and rests), linked to the use of (digital) tachographs on board of vehicles.

In principle, such burdensome and costly rules do not apply to construction companies' drivers and light commercial vehicles.

However, in some countries, the legislation is applied more extensively and includes “construction drivers”, as though they belong to the transport industry.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

FIEC, in cooperation with EBC (European Builders Confederation), advocated for the extension of the existing exemptions to the mandatory use of tachograph on board of vehicles, because construction companies are small mobile factories covering a limited perimeter, rather than road transport companies. In specific cases, they also transport perishable goods (i.e. ready-mixed concrete), which are clearly not to be treated as “normal” merchandise.

In December 2019, the Council and the European Parliament finally reached a political agreement, which recognises the fact that construction undertakings are indeed not road transport companies. Hence, an additional exemption has been introduced for heavier construction vehicles carrying machinery, as well as for vehicles transporting ready-mixed concrete.

Actions and key dates:

May 2017 – European Commission's proposal

Autumn 2017 to Spring 2019 – Numerous FIEC lobbying actions towards the European Parliament (meetings, position papers, voting recommendations, press releases), in cooperation with EBC (European Builders Confederation)

03/12/2018 – Council adopted its position (“general approach”)

04/04/2019 – European Parliament adopted its position (“resolution”)

Autumn 2019 – Trilogue negotiations / FIEC lobbying towards new MEPs in charge (following EP elections)

December 2019 – Political agreement reached in trilogue

22/01/2020 – FIEC-EBC joint press release welcoming the outcomes



For immediate release

Press release

22 January 2020

**Driving times and Tachographs:
Political agreement recognizes construction specificities**