

PE - COURRIER EP - ENTRÉE
31. 07. 2012
N° 8790

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 26. 07. 2012
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Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 10 July. I can confirm that over the past months the Commission Services have been preparing a review of Directive 96/53/EC on weights and dimensions of road vehicles. This review is motivated by issues which were announced in the 2011 White Paper on Transport, such as reducing CO2 emissions and fuel consumption by heavy-duty vehicles, and promoting intermodal transport. The review would also be an opportunity to provide full legal clarity of the rules relating to cross border use of longer modular trucks.

In the light of formal requests from stakeholders, in particular the International Road Transport Union, the Commission thought it appropriate to provide additional guidance on the issue of cross-border use to clarify previous statements made over several years. This guidance took into account the opinions of the Legal Services of our two institutions, and the suggestions made during the extensive discussions which Vice President Kallas had with the Transport Committee. Until any revision of the directive is fully implemented, the current Directive remains in force. The Commission will continue to ensure that it is applied properly and uniformly in all Member States and will launch infringement proceedings where appropriate.

In the light of the above, I hope you will agree that the Commission has been fulfilling its responsibilities in controlling the application of EU law. The European Parliament has played an important role in clarifying the interpretation of the current directive and I thank you for it. I look forward to continued constructive interactions when the revised legislation is proposed to Parliament and Council in the near future.

Yours sincerely



José Manuel BARROSO

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