

Brussels, 27 June 2011

Road freight transport - Commission asks a group of "wise men" to review the state of the internal market

Siim Kallas, the Commissioner responsible for transport, has set up a High-Level Group to review the state of the European Union's internal market in road freight transport. The High Level Group, which met for the first time on 27 June 2011, will assess the level of harmonisation of the rules in the fields of social and safety legislation, enforcement and road user charges in order to advise the Commission before any decision on further opening of domestic road transport markets, including further liberalisation of cabotage.

Vice-President Kallas who attended the first meeting of the High Level Group said: *"The European Union needs to optimise its transport system and improve its efficiency and sustainability. There are still a lot of obstacles left that need to be tackled and rules that must be harmonised. I count on this group of 'wise men' to advise me on where the EU should concentrate its efforts to further integrate the internal market for road freight transport."*

The High Level Group is composed of eight academic experts representing a diverse set of knowledge and experience relevant for the assessment of the functioning of the road freight transport market. The High Level Group will be chaired by Professor Brian T. Bayliss, a Professor of Business Economics at the University of Bath.

The High Level Group will organise a series of hearings with stakeholders including road hauliers and road haulage organisations, freight forwarders, trade unions and customers of the road haulage industry. The High Level Group will present its recommendations to Mr Kallas by May 2012. The Commission will where appropriate follow them up by proposing new legislative initiatives in 2013.

Annex

The composition of the High Level Group

Brian T. Bayliss, Professor of Business Economics at the University of Bath, chairman of the High Level Group.

Monika Bąk, Associate Professor at the Chair of Comparative Research of Transport Systems at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Gdańsk in Poland, research adviser for the High Level Group.

Pia Koskenoja from Finland, in her capacity as independent researcher, research adviser for the High Level Group.

Marco Ponti, Professor in Transport Economics at the Politecnico Milano University in Italy

Michel Savy, Professor at the University of Paris East and the Ecole Nationale des Ponds et Chaussées in France

Wolfgang Stölzle, Professor of Logistics Management at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Professor Stölzle is from Germany and is the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs in Germany

Dimitrios Tsamboulas, Professor at the Department of Transportation Planning & Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens in Greece.

José Manuel Viegas, Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico of the Technical University of Lisbon in Portugal.