

Revision of the “Driving times” and “Tachograph” Regulations: FIEC and EBC welcome breakthrough agreement reached in the European Parliament

Brussels, 8 April 2019 – **After an unusually long and complex procedure, the European construction industry, represented by the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) and the European Builders Confederation (EBC), is glad to see that the outcomes of the European Parliament’s vote of 4 April recognise the fact that construction enterprises are not road transport companies.**

During the lengthy discussions on the dossier, the construction industry strongly emphasised that construction enterprises and related crafts are not road transport companies and should thus be excluded from the scope of the legislation. In fact, although construction enterprises use lorries and cars to transport material, equipment or workers within a geographically limited area to a specific construction site or building on a daily basis, this is just an auxiliary activity and should not create the costs or administrative burden implied by installing costly tachographs.

Even though FIEC and EBC vigorously oppose the extension of the legislation to light commercial vehicles involved in international transport operations (from 2.4 tonnes) both highly appreciate that the specific circumstances of construction enterprises and related crafts have been taken into account in the agreement.

The following exceptions, foreseen in the regulations, are those from which construction enterprises and crafts benefit:

- An exemption for light commercial vehicles used for the transport of goods (“where the transport is not effected for hire or reward, but on the own account of the company or the driver”), which especially alleviates the effect of the increased scope for construction enterprises operating in border regions;
- An extension of the existing exemption for vehicles with a maximum permissible mass not exceeding 7.5 tonnes from a 100 km to a 150 km radius, which facilitates the work of construction enterprises and related crafts, especially in rural areas;
- The possibility for national exemptions of vehicles up to 44 tonnes used by construction enterprises up to a 100 km radius, which alleviates burdens for construction enterprises when heavy vehicles are needed on construction sites.

FIEC and EBC look forward to further cooperation with the institutions on the forthcoming interinstitutional negotiations and call upon them to ensure that the special circumstances of the construction sector continue to be recognised.



■ **Notes to editors**

Founded in 1905, the **European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)** is representing via its 31 National Member Federations in 27 countries (24 EU & 2 EFTA and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as “global players”, carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

Established in 1990, the **European Builders Confederation (EBC)** is a European professional organisation representing national associations of crafts, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises working in the construction sector. EBC is a member of SMEUnited (the European association of micro-enterprises and SMEs).

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■ **Further information**

More information on [FIEC](#) and [EBC](#) can be found on the linked webpages.