



December the 5th, 2012

FNTR and NLA together in opposing the opening of cabotage in 2014.

Meeting in Paris the NLA (Nordic Logistics Association) and FNTR (Fédération Nationale des Transports Routiers – the French National Federation of Road transport operators) committed to develop and deepen their cooperation on defending in Brussels a European road transport market where the road hauliers can offer their services in equal and fair competition.

The two organisations had a fruitful exchange of views on several issues and shared information on the present situation for road hauliers in France and in the Nordic countries.

Both associations expressed their deep concerns at the present situation with the economic situation seriously critical. They deplored the high level of taxation and charging in their countries, which puts a brake on the development of the economic and environmental performances of the companies. In particular NLA and FNTR consider that their companies must be better prepared for the consequences of the inevitable development of charges related to energy.

NLA and FNTR committed themselves in particular to defend vis-à-vis the European Commission a common position on the important issue of cabotage. The two associations consider it important that cabotage operations remain within a limited framework as long as the social and fiscal conditions within the EU are not yet harmonised. Cabotage operations need to remain limited, temporary and linked to an international transport, in order to ensure a fair and equal competition between the member states.

Also the NLA and FNTR oppose strongly any liberalisation of cabotage in 2014 and call for further work on the existing rules and the control to ensure that cabotage today is an activity which is limited, non-permanent and not continuous.

The Nordic and French associations request that the Commission carry out a thorough and well-based study on the present situation in the market taking into account all the economic and social factors, before any further liberalisation of cabotage.

The two associations equally recall their request, that the European rules on the social conditions of the international driver are reconsidered and that a regime adapted to the situation for highly mobile workers is introduced.

There is an urgent and irrefutable need to link the rules applied for cabotage for the vehicle to the establishment of harmonised social rules for the driver, considering that the rules on posting of workers are by nature not adapted to the activities of the highly mobile workers.

The NLA represents the associations of road freight transport operators in Denmark, Sweden and Norway with the Finnish association as associated member. Together they represent more than 20.000 companies.

The FNTR is the leading organisation of road freight transport operators in France. It represents with 12.000 members 2/3 of the road transport operators that adhere to a professional association. Its members are companies of all sizes (groups, SMEs, single man companies) and of all kind of activities.