



e-CMR adoption by Germany

A big step forward for digital transport

Brussels, Friday 1st October 2021

After years of campaigning ECG finally welcomes the adoption by Germany of the e-CMR protocol following the approval by the Bundesrat on 17th September. Although Germany had previously allowed electronic documentation for transit journeys this change means that the largest automotive market in Europe will finally also accept electronic consignment notes for movements that are loaded or unloaded within its borders.

For the Finished Vehicle Logistics industry and ECG this marks the end of a seven year long campaign and will mean that the paperless carriage of vehicles can be extended from a relatively small number of road transport movements, such as between France and Spain, to encompass the vast majority of vehicle movements in Europe. The environmental impact alone is significant with many ECG members estimating that they will now each eliminate the printing of up to two million paper documents every year!

Andreas Scheuer, Federal Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure in Germany said "The time has finally come - the e-waybill is coming! The advantages are

obvious..... At the same time, it enables logisticians and customers to get real-time information about the status of their deliveries. The result is overall a more efficient and faster supply chain. This not only makes life easier for logisticians, it ultimately benefits every single customer!”¹

The original e-CMR protocol was signed by the members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 2008 and came into force in 2011. Since then European countries have slowly been individually acceding to it. From the beginning Germany, as the most important market for automotive shipments, has been a block to car carriers benefiting from the improved efficiencies the protocol allows. As long ago as 2016 ECG published, with the International Road Transport Union (IRU), a joint statement calling on Germany to adopt the protocol and so we celebrate this significant milestone in Europe on the path to achieving truly digital and paperless supply chains in our industry. We now look forward to the last few countries ratifying and accepting e-CMR as well as the eventual implementation in the German market.

Note to editors:

ECG is the established platform for the outbound automotive logistics sector bringing together logistics service providers, manufacturer logistics managers and suppliers to the sector. ECG aims to facilitate non-commercial collaboration between member companies and assist them in sharing best practices in many operational areas, especially the harmonisation of operational standards.

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About ECG

ECG, the Association of European Vehicle Logistics, has been the voice of the Finished Vehicle Logistics industry in Europe since 1997. ECG represents the interests of almost 140 member companies and partners, from family owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector. ECG represents all transport modes at EU level – road, rail, maritime and fluvial. ECG Members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies and vehicle leasing operators across the EU as well as in Norway,

¹ <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/113-scheuer-e-frachtbrief.html>

Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and beyond. They own or operate more than 380 car-carrying ships, 14,900 purpose-built railway wagons, 28 river barges and more than 27,800 road transporters.

As a major employer, the finished vehicle logistics sector plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. ECG members have an aggregate turnover of around €24.5bn and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €64bn. **More than 112,000 Europeans are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 230,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.**

