



### **Derogation from driving and rest times pursuant to Art. 14(2) of Regulation 561/2006**

In response to the extraordinary situation due to the BREXIT, **BELGIUM** has agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles **active in the transport towards ports in Belgium and France experiencing traffic problems as a result of the BREXIT. This will mainly concern the border crossings on the E40 to and from France, the E17 at Rekem, transport to seaports in Belgium and France with the aim of shipping goods to the UK.**

This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 and the purpose of this document is to notify the Commission accordingly.

This temporary relaxation applies from **28/12/2020** and will run until **26/01/2021**. It will only apply to drivers who are experiencing traffic jams and long waiting times while transporting their goods to the ports in Belgium and France with the aim of shipping the goods to the UK.

**BELGIUM** has made it clear that driver and road safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

For the above-mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- **Derogation to Article 6(1) of Regulation 561/2006:** replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- **Derogation to Article 7 of Regulation 561/2006:** replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours
- **Derogation to Article 8(1) of Regulation 561/2006:** Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;
- **Derogation to Article 8(6) of Regulation 561/2006 :** postponement of a weekly rest period beyond six-24 hours period.

The temporary relaxation of the rules described above reflects the exceptional circumstances stemming from the start of the BREXIT. **BELGIUM** wishes to emphasize that, as a general rule, we expect business to plan for and manage the risks following the upcoming BREXIT.

Georges GILKINET,  
Minister of Transport