



09 February 2026

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Letter of support on the plenary vote on subcontracting, Strasbourg 12 February

The ETF and the UETR hereby write to you to strongly recommend **voting in favour of the EMPL Report in its entirety**. Result of months of intense work by the EMPL members of the European Parliament, the report offers a balanced solution to both the long and untransparent subcontracting chains, and to the abusive forms of labour and business intermediation.

The road transport sector is particularly sensitive to distortions generated by subcontracting. In the sector low profit margins are often a feature in particular for SMEs transport companies, thus the numerous levels of business subcontracting accelerate the race to the bottom of transport prices, with serious consequences for smaller companies which anyway have a weak negotiating power. This affects their capacity to attract skilled drivers, a challenge that is even more difficult in the context of the current critical labour shortages in the sector. This also affects the capacity to renew fleets and to contribute to the greening of road transport. In other words, subcontracting hinders the sector's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

On the other hand, subcontracting and labour intermediaries have been used to curb labour costs and generate abusively low prices for transport services, in an attempt to deepen wage and freight transport prices competition, exploitation, and social dumping. Labour intermediaries can use subcontracting chains to disguise employment relationships, circumvent tax and social security payments, escape joint and several liability, and hide from controls by labour inspection and other enforcement agencies.

For all these reasons, **we fully support the Report's calls** to:

- **Establish an EU legal framework** to tackle abuses in contracting and subcontracting and intermediation;
- **Introduce price transparency and liabilities and limitations on contracting and subcontracting**, including joint and several liability in the chain, promotion of direct employment relationships, and tackling financial subcontracting;
- **Strengthen enforcement**, including through a reinforced ELA, increased inspection capacity, better data, and effective, dissuasive sanctions.

In view of the Commission's upcoming **Fair Labour Mobility Package and the Quality Jobs Act**, the European Parliament's clear political signal in favour of strong EU action is crucial.

We thank you in advance for acting in line with our demand, and remain at your disposal for any further exchange.

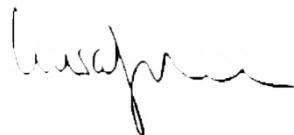
Yours sincerely,

Marco Digioia



General Secretary
Union Européenne des Transporteurs Routiers

Livia Spera



General Secretary
European Transport Workers' Federation

About UETR

UETR is the European umbrella organization representing and defending the interests of more than 200.000 road transport undertakings (mostly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) with a total capacity of more than 430.000 commercial vehicles. Within the Union, 95% of the road haulage companies are micro-enterprises with less than 10 employees (small firms or one-man operations). For more information visit www.uetr.eu

About ETF

The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) is a pan-European trade union organisation which embraces transport trade unions from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Central and Eastern European countries. Today, the ETF represents more than 5 million transport workers from more than 200 transport unions and 38 European countries. These workers are found in all parts of the transport industry, on land, sea and in the air. We cover workers in the following sectors: Civil aviation, Fisheries, Inland waterways, Logistics, Maritime transport, Ports and docks, Railways, Road transport, Tourism, Urban public transport. We also have specific structures to represent women and young transport workers. For more information visit www.etf-europe.org