

**COVID-19 NEWSFLASH ON**  
**EU BORDER MEASURES AND GREEN LANES**  
**BRUSSELS, MARCH 2020**

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic forced EU Member States to impose border restrictions, including measures that restrict or severely hinder the flow of cross-border goods. Traffic congestion increased at the EU 's internal borders, causing freight drivers to face up to 24 hours of waiting time at land crossings, disrupting the supply chain.

On 19th March 2020, the Commission issued **COVID-19 guidelines on border measures** to EU Member States. The Commission Guidelines confirm that individual member states are allowed to take protective measures against COVID-19. Those measures must then be transparent, proportionate, relevant and specific to the model, and must not discriminate. The Commission Guidelines further stress that Member States should maintain the free circulation of all goods and ensure the supply chain of basic products, such as medicines, medical equipment, perishable food and livestock.

On March 23, the European Commission released a **Communication on the implementation of « Green lanes »** with various measures to simplify freight transport within the EU. The idea is that crossing the border should not take more than 15 minutes. The measures include the inspection and health check of transport workers on green lanes. At green lanes, transport workers can only be required to present identification documents, driving licenses and the International Transport Worker Certificate to be filled in by the employer, provided in the Annex 3 of the Communication. Transport workers' health checks should only be performed on one side of the border to avoid wasting time in multiple tests of various Member States. The inspection of documents and goods on the way should be minimized and not exceed normal levels. Health checks should be conducted in a way that minimizes delays. In principle, health checks should be based on electronic body temperature measurements. National driving restrictions should be suspended, such as weekend bans, night bans, departmental bans, etc., to increase traffic flow. Forced quarantine for the transport workers who do not show symptoms should be avoided. These Green lanes measures are

applicable for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and apply to all goods to preserve the EU economy.

We very much hope that you will find this Briefing useful. We remain at your entire disposal for any additional information or clarification.

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