

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

After nearly two years of constant appeals to the European Commission for a constructive solution regarding the limited period of stay for professional drivers within the Schengen Area, we hereby inform you that there has been no positive progress.

Specifically, all Schengen countries still maintain the right to reclassify the daily professional activity of driving across European roads as "residence within the Schengen territory." Consequently, any stay exceeding 90 days within a 180-day period is treated as illegal conduct. This results in further sanctions that place both drivers and transport companies in a state of constant uncertainty regarding their survival.

For these reasons, it has been decided that on January 26, 2026 at 12 o'clock, Serbian hauliers will begin a protest due to the inadequate response of the European Commission and Schengen countries regarding the treatment of Serbian professional drivers and the restrictions on their stay within the Schengen territory during their daily work activities.

Additionally, on the same day, January 26, 2026, colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and North Macedonia will also begin their protest at all of their border crossings. Colleagues from Turkey will support the protest by sending vehicles to the Serbian border crossings.

The protest will involve the suspension of road transport across border crossings. This suspension entails a stop in further transport operations at entry and exit freight terminals at major border crossings, as well as a stoppage of freight traffic on roads leading to smaller border crossings and in the entry freight lanes at those locations.

At the same time, protests will commence at:

CB Batrovci	CB Kaluđerovo
CB Šid	CB Đerdap
CB Neštin	CB Gradina
CB Bačka Palanka	CB Vrška Čuka
CB Bogojevo	CB Strezimirovci
CB Bezdán	CB Preševo
CB Bački Breg	AP Končulj
CB Kelebija	AP Brnjak
CB Horgoš	AP Jariñje
CB Srpska Crnja	AP Merdare
CB Vatin	

The protest is announced to last for **at least 7 days**, with the possibility of being suspended once when guarantees are received regarding a meeting date with European Commission officials, which would include representatives of both the state and the hauliers.

We emphasize that this protest has no political connotation; its sole objective is to raise awareness among the authorities in the European Commission and the European administration in general, Schengen countries, as well as transport clients. We wish to highlight that professional drivers are not illegal migrants, terrorists, or illegal workers. Their arrest, deportation, and work restrictions represent a direct impact to the Serbian transport industry, as well as the Serbian economy, which relies on Serbian transport capacities. Furthermore, these actions violate the fundamental principles of the right to work and a normal life. If there is no change in the treatment of Serbian professional drivers and transport companies, a complete collapse of supply chains is expected by mid-April, as our carriers will no longer have drivers available!

The association, in agreement with other colleagues, made a decision that: medicines, live animals and ammunition and explosives will have unimpeded passage during the protest.

We hereby appeal to all business owners whose parent companies are based in the EU to use their embassies, chambers of commerce, and other relevant national institutions to request an exemption from the European Commission for professional drivers regarding the limited number of days of stay within the aforementioned territories, in order to prevent a very bad scenario.



Serbian Association of International Road Hauliers
„Medjunarodni transport“
Republic of Serbia, Milutina Bojica 2/I, 11000 Belgrade
tel/fax +381 11/3247 147; 3241 036; 3239 287
office@pumedtrans.com; www.pumedtrans.com

Contact for all inquiries and consultations: Serbian Association of International Road Hauliers-MT,
Belgrade, Serbia, office@pumedtrans.com, +381 11 32 47 147