

Electronic freight transport information

2018/0140(COD) - 04/02/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted the report by Claudia SCHMIDT (EPP, AT) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on electronic freight transport information.

As a reminder, the Commission proposal (i) requires competent authorities to accept regulatory information (for certain legal acts) in electronic form, and (ii) sets up of framework of certified eFTI platforms and service providers (by conformity assessment bodies).

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows.

Enlarged scope

The purpose of this Regulation is to reduce the costs of processing transport information between authorities and economic operators, to improve the enforcement capabilities of the authorities and to encourage the digitalisation of the freight transport and logistics.

Members stated that the Regulation should:

- lay down the conditions under which the economic operators concerned are required to make regulatory information electronically available to the Member States' competent authorities;
- lay down the conditions under which Member States' competent authorities have to communicate electronically with the economic operators concerned as regards the provision of regulatory information;
- apply to regulatory information requirements for the transport of goods set out in international conventions applicable in the Union.

The eFTI platforms shall be governed by the general principles of technological neutrality as well as interoperability.

Towards a complete digitalisation

Members considered that 'smart' digital enforcement necessitates all relevant information to become paperless and be available for competent authorities in electronic form. This will free up enforcement capacity, reduce unnecessary administrative burden on transport operators, better target high-risk operators and detect fraudulent practices. The use of electronic documents should therefore in the future become the rule.

Furthermore, in order to provide enforcement officials, including those performing roadside checks, with a clear and complete overview of the transport operators being checked, they should have direct and real-time access to all relevant information, so as to be able to detect infringements and abnormalities quicker and more efficiently.

Delegated acts

The proposal includes a large number of issues to be established by means of implementing acts. These issues include access and processing rules for competent authorities and functional requirements for eFTI platforms and service providers. Since these are issues of general application and aim to supplement certain non-essential elements of the legislative act, they should all be established by delegated acts.

The Commission should immediately start working on the necessary delegated acts in order to avoid further delays and to ensure that economic operators and Member States have enough time to prepare.

Requirements for eFTI service providers

eFTI service providers should ensure that the data is interoperable and remain accessible, for a period of four years, in compliance with the relevant regulatory information requirements.

Certification

Certification of solutions and platforms are required to ensure the compliance with the eCMR protocol, data security and interoperability of the eFTI data set.

Members called for certification to be performed in an independent manner to avoid distortions of competition. Compliance should be ensured with existing, standardised platforms identified in international conventions that are applicable in the Union.

Existing IT systems, that are currently used by economic operators in the transport sector to provide regulatory information and that meet the functional requirements, should be certified as eFTI platforms.