

Ms Violeta Bulc
Commissioner for Transport
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 12 February 2018

Dear Commissioner Bulc,

We are writing to you in relation to the phasing out of the European Commission's funding for the www.urbanaccessregulations.eu information tool as of 1 January 2018.

[REDACTED] jointly ask the Commission to consider continuing the funding of a European source of information on Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs) – providing information in a centralised, reliable and easily-accessible way for both policy makers and road users.

The number of cities introducing UVARs continues to increase throughout the EU. Such measures are being used by local authorities for various purposes. Decisions on UVARs are taken at regional or local level, while national frameworks are being set up in some Member States as well. In this context, there is a clear need for a European source of information on these schemes so that policy makers at local, regional, national and European level can get to know, assess, compare and understand the current situation and the policy trends surrounding UVARs.

A European source of information is also vital for industry and road users alike. In the absence of a common set of criteria for urban access regulations in the European Union, travellers and road service operators need information and the right tools to plan cross-border journeys and logistics operations across the EU in line with varying local requirements. The European Commission already identified these challenges in the past and proposed to monitor them¹, based on the impact they have on the Single Market (e.g. potential market fragmentation or posing an obstacle to the free movement of goods and people).

In line with the Commission's objective of ensuring the functioning of the Single Market and providing a solid basis for the seamless movement of people and goods, the Commission has been developing various information-providing tools to make travel easier – for example the 'Going Abroad' and 'Your

¹ Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 526

Passenger Rights' smartphone applications. With vehicle access measures being introduced in a growing number of cities, a similar initiative for UVARs is needed now more than ever.

Addressing this issue is urgent, considering the need of policy makers at all levels to correctly understand how European cities are dealing with vehicle access measures. Likewise, European businesses and citizens also have the right to be informed in a consistent and transparent way.

The undersigned organisations represent key EU stakeholder groups concerned by UVARs – i.e. the cities, the automobile industry, as well as commercial and individual transport users. We wish to engage in a discussion with you on how to continue providing information about UVARs through a centralised, reliable and easily-accessible platform.

We are ready to start a constructive dialogue on this fundamental urban mobility issue with the European Commission.

