The purpose of the meeting was to check whether some of the DG EMPL instruments could be used by the road transport sector which is faced by labour shortages and does not manage to retain workers (they leave after 3/5 years). The workforce is ageing. IRU explained that the main reasons for which the profession is not attractive are the following: (1) the work schedule, far from home for international haulage—not an issue for urban bus drivers or city deliveries- (2) travel is now highly affordable, so this incentive no longer exists. It takes the view that pay is not a problem. The impact of automation is still uncertain but it could constitute a further deterrent rather than an incentive (e.g. driverless trucks could mean drivers are not needed any more).

- One advice from DG EMPL was that DG MOVE should look into the COSME programme http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_en. DG GROW has combined COSME and Sector skills alliances to address the lack of attractiveness of the tourism sector.

will be looking into the possibility to present a joint pledge to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (to be noted, under this platform, MS can also make pledges). The Alliance provides a network and visibility.

is also interested in knowing more about the support services which will be developed in 2017 (around three pillars: intelligence gathering, networking and delivering).

will look into the NETINVET http://www.netinvet.eu/ The NETINVET network brings together training centres from 10 countries across the European Union that are keen to develop high quality mobility for learners. It already covers transport and logistics. (Within the network, training centres share common references related to the higher technician in transport and logistics qualification set up as part of the EURO TRANS LOG Leonardo da Vinci project. Such common references describe units of learning outcomes that form a common “interpretive framework” used to establish coherency between qualifications in each country. They support qualification transparency and mobility between companies and/or training centres.)

will consider being part of the VET week. DG MOVE could also host a session during the conferences held during that week (in November 2017, at the time of the Business Education Summit).

showed less interest for the pact for youth (organised by CSR. The current pact ends at the end of the year but could continue) and for sector skills alliances/strategic partnerships (which relate to training and education – DG EMPL stressed that a better training content/training methods could also enhance attractiveness).