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# PRESS RELEASE

**EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION**

**FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS**

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Brussels, 10 October 2017

## **TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS GET TOGETHER TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF TRUCK DRIVERS IN EUROPE AND ADDRESS SOCIAL DUMPING AND MODERN SLAVERY IN ROAD TRANSPORT**

This week, six trade union organisations from Belgium, Denmark, Romania and Sweden will open a Joint Trade Union Cooperation Office, under the coordination of the European Transport Workers' Federation.

3F Denmark, ABBV-BTB and CSC Transcom from Belgium, the Swedish Transport Workers' Union, the ATU Romania and the Sindicatul Liber al Transportatorilor (SLT) have pulled resources to assist unionised truckers, whenever they are confronted with problems during their work abroad or in their relations with their employer.

The opening will take place in the capital city of Romania, Bucharest, on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Bucharest unit will be dealing contacts with social partners and national institutions. This will be followed on the 13<sup>th</sup> October by the inauguration of the operational base in Targu Mures, central to the region that sees thousands of Romanian drivers leaving the country to work abroad.

Crossing Europe as part of the job, lorry drivers experience health problems, get orders from their employers often conflicting with the law, spend months living and working in their trucks and are subject to tough controls and sanctions. Not speaking languages and having no one to relate to makes it hard to deal with situations that affect their jobs and wellbeing. Via this cooperation, when in Belgium, Denmark or Sweden, and when unionised, our professional drivers will be able to ask for union help and assistance on the spot.

The Joint Trade Union Cooperation office will also help truckers make better use of their rights and entitlements relating to social security, to have better access to health care when need be, in a context where most of them have an employment situation that involves at least two countries and thus find it difficult to work out where to claim these rights.

This initiative is part and parcel of the ETF ongoing Fair Transport Campaign and aims to end modern slavery in modern Europe, in road transport.

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The ETF represents more than 3.5 million transport workers from more than 230 transport unions and 41 European countries, in the following sectors: railways, road transport and logistics, maritime transport, inland waterways, civil aviation, ports & docks, tourism and fisheries.