

**To: Didier Reynders
Commissioner for Justice
European Commission**

**Cc: Maija Laurila, Head of Unit JUST.A.3 -
Company Law**

Brussels and London, 9 February 2021

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), we would like to draw your attention to the crucial need for robust provisions in the planned EU framework on sustainable corporate governance, including the links to mandatory human rights due diligence.

The ETF and the ITF represent millions of workers in every transport sector. Many of them work in global supply chains where outsourcing and subcontracting are common practice. We believe that companies on top of the supply chain, the 'Economic Employers', have a duty of care to ensure that their own operations and their subcontractors' and partners' business practices are free of exploitation and abuse. However, we note that many companies only apply their environmental and social standards to, at best, the first tier of their supply chains.

In relation to the transport sector, this means that the working conditions of significant groups of workers critical to European supply chains including delivery drivers, warehouse staff and agency workers, as well as crews involved in shipping, are not adequately addressed, monitored and abuses remedied.

In order to protect the rights of transport workers, we are urging the Commission to propose and introduce a robust mandatory corporate due diligence duty in the planned EU framework on sustainable corporate governance that covers all human rights, including workers' rights. All companies, including financial institutions and companies based outside Member States but offering goods and services in the European Union, must fall under the scope of this initiative.

Victims must have a broad access to justice in EU Member States, and public authorities should be equipped with strong monitoring and enforcement competences.

The new proposal should also highlight the constructive role of trade unions in designing and implementing companies' due diligence plans and early alert mechanisms, as well as the right to act on behalf of victims.

This initiative can have a significant positive impact on the life of millions of people, as well as being a crucial intervention to help build a just recovery while also guaranteeing fair competition.

We are ready to work with the Commission and provide further input during the legislative process in order to protect the livelihoods and rights of workers across Europe as well as supporting robust standards of corporate governance to drive fair and sustainable business practices.

Your sincerely,



Livia Spera
ETF Acting General Secretary



Stephen Cotton
ITF General Secretary