



## News Release

# Lorry Charging: Transport Ministers Reject 'Clean and Competitive' Europe

21/04/05, Brussels - For immediate release – A coalition including environmental organisations, trade unions and transport industry groups criticises the outcome of today's transport council for prohibiting Member States from including the costs of environmental and health damage in road tolls. The coalition calls on the European Parliament to maintain their commitment to such costs being included.

Jos Dings, Director of T&E said, "This is a missed opportunity for a clean and competitive Europe. Member States must be allowed to use tolls to recoup the EUR 170 Billion cost of environmental and health damage caused by lorries (1) – so they can, for example, lower labour taxes or fund innovation instead. "

The council's position does address two of the coalitions recommendations regarding the original proposal. Specifically the council has agreed that Member States can decide how to spend toll revenues and that they should be able to apply tolls to any part of the road network.

But the council's position runs contrary to the European Parliament's support for the inclusion of 'external costs' pledged in their April 2004 reading of the legislation. "It is up to the Parliament to put this issue firmly back on the agenda or risk the health of European citizens, and continued environmental destruction" said Dings.

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**A background briefing on the revised 'Eurovignette Directive' can be downloaded from the T&E website at:**

<http://www.t-e.nu/modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index&req=getit&lid=359>

(1) EUR 170 Billion cost of environmental and health damage caused by lorries. Figures apply to EU25 minus Baltic states, Malta and Cyprus.

Sources:

- INFRAS/IWW, External costs of transport, Update study, Zurich/Karlsruhe, October 2004 [www.infras.ch](http://www.infras.ch)
- OECD, External costs of transport in Central and Eastern Europe, Paris, May 2003 (Poland, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Czech Republic) [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

### More information

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**On behalf of:**

Austrian Railway Workers Trade Union

CEE bankwatch network

EEB: European Environmental Bureau

EIA : European Intermodal Association

EIM: European Rail Infrastructure Managers

ERFA: European Rail Freight Association

ETF: European Transport Workers Federation

Stichting Natuur en Milieu (The Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment)

**About T&E**

T&E is Europe's principal environmental organisation campaigning specifically on transport. Members are drawn from NGOs in nearly every European country, all of whom promote a more environmentally sound approach to transport. [www.t-e.eu](http://www.t-e.eu)