



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Any Other Business

Road transport situation in the context of detailed inspections of Lithuanian vehicles recently introduced by Russian authorities

- Information from the LT delegation

Delegations will find annexed an information note on the above mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 3 December 2014.

Road transport situation in the context of detailed inspections of Lithuanian vehicles recently introduced by Russian authorities

Referring to the importance of the situation of the EU road hauliers in the context of Russian import ban on the EU certain products, as underlined by the European Commission during the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council of 8 October 2014, we would like to draw your attention to the barriers the Lithuanian trucks and passenger vehicles have encountered on crossing the state border to the Russian Federation recently.

On 21 November 2014 the Federal Customs Service of Russia tightened the cross-border procedures once again and, without providing any advance notice or explanation, started to execute long lasting 100% examination of the cargo trucks with the Lithuanian registration plates, also the vehicles carrying goods of Lithuanian companies or goods re-exported by Lithuanian companies. Since the last week the restrictive measures for the Lithuanian carriers have been applied not only at the Lithuania-Kaliningrad Region state border crossing points, but as well at the other EU-Russia border crossing points (LV/RF, FIN/RF). The passenger cars with the Lithuanian number plates are also subject to lengthy and thorough checks at the Lithuanian– Kaliningrad Region border.

These measures may affect the Lithuanian transport sector significantly resulting in serious economic consequences and financial losses for a number of economic operators, i.e. exporters, importers and transport companies.

A similar discriminatory practice was already imposed by the Russian Federal Customs Service on 16 September 2013 and lifted a month later with no official explanation.