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Adoption of “Eurocharging” Directive in TRAN Committee: FIEC welcomes ambitious reinforcement of the earmarking principle

■ FIEC welcomes the adoption of the Parliament’s report on the revision of the “Eurovignette” Directive – more recently known as the “Eurocharging” Directive – on 24th May in the TRAN Committee. In particular, FIEC welcomes the fact that the adopted report promotes the maintenance and construction of the EU’s core assets in a much more ambitious way.

“We are happy to see that the TRAN Committee of the European Parliament voted in favour of a reinforcement of the earmarking principle in article 9”, says FIEC President Kjetil Tønning. “This is a crucial aspect of the whole Directive, which so far, had been neglected.”

“Indeed, in the post-crisis context and considering the difficulty of financing the maintenance or construction of certain transport infrastructure projects, it is logical that revenues from infrastructure and external costs charges are earmarked to carry out road network maintenance and upkeep, and to optimise the entire transport system”, stresses Tønning. “Indeed, these charges should not be an end in themselves, but aimed at supporting the maintenance and development of efficient and sustainable infrastructure and, by the way, reducing the external costs of road transport.”

“Now, we strongly encourage Member States in the Council to support the same logic when adopting their own position,” calls Tønning. “Without mandatory earmarking for the maintenance and development of sustainable transport infrastructure, this new version of the “Eurocharging” Directive will – again – miss its target!” he concludes.