

RESOLUTION No. 2002/3 ON SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES OF ISSUING VISAS FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS¹

[CM(2002)9/FINAL]

The ECMT Council of Ministers of Transport, meeting in Bucharest on 29 and 30 May, 2002:

HAVING REGARD to:

- ECMT Resolution No. 94/5 on "Removal of obstacles at border crossings for international road goods transport" [CEMT/CM(94)11/FINAL] adopted on 27 May 1994, in Annecy;
- ECMT Resolution No. 95/1 on "Access to European Transport Markets" [CEMT/CM(95)1/FINAL] adopted on 8 June 1995, in Vienna;
- ECMT Recommendation on "Visas for Professional Drivers" [CEMT/CM(98)9/FINAL] adopted on 27 May 1998, in Copenhagen;
- ECMT Resolution No. 99/1 on "The integration of European Inland Transport Markets" [CEMT/CM(99)2/FINAL] adopted on 20 May 1999, in Warsaw;
- ECMT Resolution N° 99/2 on "The Removal of obstacles at border crossings for international goods transport" [CEMT/CM(99)3/FINAL] adopted on 20 May 1999, in Warsaw;

TAKING NOTE of::

- the increasing volume of trade between ECMT Member countries;

ATTENTIVE:

- to the necessity to ensure compatibility with the work underway in the European Union on this subject;

AIMING for:

- a single united European market for transport services on the basis of the liberalisation of access to national markets and establishment of equal conditions for competition;

1. Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany and Portugal entered a reservation on this topic.

AWARE:

- that in most cases the provisions of this Resolution fall under the authority of official bodies other than Transport Ministries of ECMT Member countries;
- of problems arising from the divergence in the procedures for issuing visas for professional drivers carrying out international road haulage in ECMT Member countries;

CONFIDENT that:

- simplification of the procedures for issuing visas for professional drivers carrying out international haulage is an important condition for the facilitation of border crossings, and that international coordination and cooperation in this field would improve the efficiency of road transport and support the development of international trade;

REAFFIRMS:

- the obligations adopted in ECMT Resolutions No. 94/5, No. 95/1 and No. 99/2;

RECOMMENDS:

- that ECMT Member countries regularly exchange information on practices in the field of facilitating the issuing of visas for professional drivers for the purpose of ensuring effective and coordinated procedures in this field, and strive for simplified procedures on the basis of more harmonisation of documentation concerning the obtaining of visas;

INVITES:

- the official Bodies concerned in ECMT Member countries to simplify the procedures for obtaining visas for professional drivers involved in international road transport by means of simplification of formalities, limitation of the number of supporting documents required, reducing time for obtaining visas, and also to promote the issuance of multiple visas valid for one year;
- Governments of ECMT Member countries to work with other Members of ECMT to identify best practice in the issue of visas;

INSTRUCTS:

- the Committee of Deputies to take the necessary steps for implementing the provisions of this Resolution and report on the results at the next ECMT Council meeting.