



**International Transport Forum
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM**

**STATEMENT FROM MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES ON A QUALITY
CHARTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ROAD HAULAGE OPERATIONS UNDER THE ECMT
MULTILATERAL QUOTA SYSTEM**

The Statement was approved by the Ministers of European Member Countries under the Agenda Item 4 of the Closed Ministerial Session held on 28 May 2015 in Leipzig, Germany.

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This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

COVER NOTE

The Group on Road Transport, pursuing Ministerial instructions to further develop qualitative aspects of the ECMT Multilateral quota, embarked in 2011 on the development of a Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System. The aim was to bring provisions concerning drivers, managers, road transport undertakings, as well as checks applied to ECMT Multilateral quota operations, to equally high standards in all European Member countries of the International Transport Forum.

At their meeting in Leipzig on 23 May 2013, Ministers of Transport of European Member countries [[ITF\(2013\)5](#)]:

- noted the significant progress achieved in the development of a Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System;
- reiterated the importance of this work for the development of the Quota system into an efficient instrument for sustainable and high-quality road transport in Europe; and
- encouraged the Road Transport Group to work towards approving the Charter before the end of 2013.

With reference to the above mandate, the Group on Road Transport, in September 2013, approved chapters I to IV of the Quality Charter. The Group, thereafter, developed and approved in March 2015 chapter V and Rules of procedure (Appendix 1) on implementation/enforcement of the Charter by Member countries, based on the approach (i) without an immediate link between the implementation of the Charter and the incitation mechanism and (ii) providing for a review of the state of Charter implementation by Member countries at the latest within three years after its entering into force.

The consolidated text of the Quality Charter, unanimously approved by the Group on Road Transport at its last meeting held 16-17 March 2015 in Paris, and noted by the TMB at its meeting on 8-9 April 2015, is provided for information under the draft Agenda point 4 of the Closed Ministerial session to be held on 28 May 2015 in Leipzig [[ITF\(2015\)3/FINAL](#)].

Requirement and Process for formal approval by Ministers

According to the General Rules of the International Transport Forum (Article 12.6), major policy decisions of a strategic nature related to the ECMT Multilateral Quota are referred to the European Members of the Council of Ministers of Transport for final approval.

The Quality Charter is an important policy instrument. Its adoption represents an unequivocal political commitment to establish the highest quality international road transport at a Pan-European level. To enable its sound implementation at National levels, and in particular in non-EU countries, a Ministerial decision is required for approval of the Charter.

With this in view, the text of the Draft Ministerial Statement as endorsed by consensus at the TMB meeting held on 8-9 April 2015, is submitted to the Council of Ministers for formal approval on 28 May 2015, in Leipzig, under the draft Agenda point 4 of the Closed Ministerial session.

Ministers of European Member countries approve formally the Statement reproduced hereafter.

**STATEMENT FROM MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES
CONCERNING THE QUALITY CHARTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ROAD HAULAGE
OPERATIONS UNDER THE ECMT MULTILATERAL QUOTA SYSTEM**

Ministers of Transport of European Member countries of the International Transport Forum, meeting in Leipzig on 28 May 2015:

- **Reiterating the mandate given in 2013** and **stating their commitment to** establish the highest quality international road transport at a pan-European level, and considering the development of the Multilateral Quota as an important step in this direction,
- **Approve** the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System, agreed by the Group on Road Transport at its meeting on 16-17 March 2015;
- **Commit** to engage their efforts towards having the provisions of the Charter applied to all international transport operations carried under the ECMT Multilateral Quota as of 1 January 2018;
- **Request** the Group on Road Transport to monitor the state of implementation of the Quality Charter and, depending on that state and the level of harmonisation achieved across the countries, report back and propose further steps for Quota development in three years' time.