

Communication from the European Commission on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services

Communication on the general guidelines for border management measures

The text of this Communication is available on [this](#) page. The aim is to protect the health of the EU population, whilst avoiding disruptions to the free movement of persons and the delivery of goods across Europe.

Key points

- Member States must always admit their own citizens and residents and should facilitate transit of other EU citizens and residents that are returning home.
- Member States should facilitate the crossing of frontier workers, in particular those working in the health care and food sectors, and other essential services (e.g. child-care, elderly care, critical staff for utilities).
- Member States should designate priority lanes for freight transport (e.g. via 'green lanes'). All EU internal borders should stay open to freight and the supply chains for essential products must be guaranteed. In the same context, Member States should facilitate the safe movement for transport workers.
- No additional certifications should be imposed on goods legally circulating within the EU single market. It should be noted that, according to the European Food Safety Authority, there is no evidence that food is a source or a transmission source of Covid-19.
- Member States may impose health screenings at border crossing points and they are advised to do so on one side of the border only to avoid overlaps and waiting times. Such controls should be applied in a proportionate manner and with regard to the health of the individuals concerned.

Communication on the implementation of the "green lanes"

The text of this Communication is available on [this](#) page. The aim is to ensure that all freight, including but not limited to essential goods such as food and medical supplies, gets quickly to its destination without any delays, preserving the supply chain and ensuring the functioning of the EU internal market.

Key points

- Member States are invited to designate the relevant internal border-crossing points of the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T), and additional ones in case of saturation, as "green lane" border crossings. Vehicles carrying any type of goods should be able to use "green lane" border crossings, which should have a crossing time of maximum 15 minutes.
- Member States must commit to suspend any traffic restrictions and to minimize the documentation necessary for carriers.
- All freight vehicles and drivers should be treated in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Non-EU neighboring States (United Kingdom, EEA, Switzerland, Western Balkans) are also invited to comply with the rules.
- Member States should temporarily suspend all types of driving restrictions currently in place (week-end bans, night bans, sectoral bans, etc.) for freight transport.
- Each Member State has already designated a national contact point, in order to create a common platform coordinated by the European Commission.
- Member States should take action to ensure the free movement within the EU of all workers involved in international transport in all transport modes, such as drivers, seafarers, pilots, crew, wagon inspectors, maintenance workers, etc.