



On 29.04., during the first pan-european coach demonstration in Vienna, Bratislava, Dresden, and many other cities in Europe, #honkforhope Slovakia (Mr. Branislav Dobos & Mr. Marek Chrzan) has handed over the pan-european petition "Save the coach travelling business in Europe" to the Slovak government. We have also made a translation into Romanian, and Slovak EU parliamentarians have handed it over to EU Commissioner Vălean in her native language.

Today, on 19.05.2020, we got the following answer

Dear Mr Chrzan,

On behalf of Commissioner Vălean, I would like to thank you for raising your concerns in your email of 27 April and more specifically, in the Petition Save the Future of European Bus Business.

It is crucial for us to understand the situation the companies are dealing with on the ground and your correspondence provided a valuable insight into the situation of bus and coach services in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In reference to the concerns raised in the Petition, I would like to draw your attention to the Commission communications that might be particularly relevant:

- Temporary Framework for State aid measures adopted by the Commission on 19 March 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/sa_covid19_temporary-framework.pdf, which enables Member States to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. It should ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available to businesses to preserve the continuity of the economic activity. Member States can grant different types of aid: direct grants, tax advantages, zero-interest loans, etc. The maximum amount – 800,000 euros per company – seems well adapted to the reality of road transport sector, which is composed of many small operators.
- The latest package on the EU's response to exit and recovery for tourism and transport adopted on 13 May https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_854. In this package, the European Commission adopted a new Communication on restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal borders https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_freemovement.pdf as well as guidelines on the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_transportservices.pdf.

We trust that, along with future national and European exit and recovery strategies, these measures will help progressively resume the bus and coach services.

The European Commission is continuously monitoring the situation. Please rest assured that we are fully committed to supporting EU citizens, businesses and Member States in overcoming the current crisis and helping to mitigate its effects.

Kind regards,

Elżbieta Łukaniuk
Member of Cabinet

European Commission
Cabinet of Adina Valean, Commissioner for Transport