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FIEC Press Release

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Revision of the Eurovignette Directive: in the right direction but not far enough

■ FIEC welcomes the proposed revision of the "Eurovignette" Directive adopted by the European Commission on 31st May. However, FIEC regrets that, again, it does not sufficiently promote the maintenance and construction of EU's core assets.

"We are happy to see that the European Commission is proposing a coherent new approach, with the phasing-out of time-based vignettes in favour of a distance-based system", says FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand. "This is a better approach with respect to the "polluter-pays" principle."

"Moreover, we welcome the extension of the scope of the Directive to lighter vehicles and to more roads, as well as the integration of congestion charges, with an extension of possible mark-ups", adds Marchand. "All in all, we are confident that the new elements on the table are more appropriate to help reverse the environmental and societal impact of road traffic."

"However, in the post-crisis context and considering the difficulty of financing the maintenance or construction of certain transport infrastructure projects, we deeply regret that Member States are still free to choose whether or not to implement such a system and also that the European Commission has not proposed reinforcing the earmarking principle of article 9", stresses Marchand. "Indeed, the internalisation of external costs should not be an end in itself, but aimed at supporting the development of efficient and sustainable infrastructure and, by the way, reducing the external costs of road transport."

"Without mandatory earmarking for the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, this new version of the Eurovignette Directive will – again – miss its target!" concludes Marchand.