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LEASEUROPE WELCOMES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S WRITTEN CONFIRMATION THAT TRUCK RENTAL COMPANIES ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO USE THE TACHOGRAPH FOR THEIR INTERNAL TRIPS

BRUSSELS, 12 November 2007 – The European Commission just confirmed in a letter to Leaseurope, the trade body representing the truck rental industry at EU level, that truck rental companies are under no obligation to use the tachograph for their internal trips (such as maintenance, repair, washing, fuelling, movement between locations, delivery, pick-up, etc.). This is because, according to the European Commission, such trips fall outside the scope of Regulation (EC) 561/2006 on drivers' hours as truck rental companies' jockeys/mechanics who are on an internal trip are not '*drivers engaged in the carriage of goods and passengers*'.

Leaseurope very much welcomes this clarification of the scope of the Regulation on driver's hours.

Leaseurope's Director General Tanguy van de Werve commented: "This is a very positive development. It confirms our longstanding position that the drivers' hours Regulation was never intended to apply to internal trips of truck rental companies".

This clarification comes as a relief to the industry as a different interpretation by the European Commission would have resulted in putting an extremely heavy and unjustified administrative burden on truck rental companies.

"That some national authorities find it easier to apply the Regulation to all trucks above a certain weight irrespective of the activity of the driver is quite obvious. Yet, this cannot justify the Regulation being misinterpreted. I commend the European Commission for having based its opinion on a legal analysis of the Regulation and not on the wish list of some national bodies." added van de Werve.

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Leaseurope, the European Federation of Leasing Company Associations, is composed of 48 Member Associations in 34 countries. It represents as an umbrella body the European leasing and automotive rental industries. In 2006, its leasing members accounted for 92% of the European leasing market. In April 2006, the Federation integrated short and long term car and truck renters into its membership base. It now represents around 8 500 companies across Europe employing over 200 000 people. During the course of 2006, the companies represented via Leaseurope financed in excess of 297.5 billion euros of new investments in vehicles, equipment and real estate with the portfolio of leasing contracts reaching more than 630 billion euros. The countries represented are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

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Leaseurope – Shaping the future of the leasing and automotive rental industries at European level