

30 March 2020, Brussels

Commissioner Adina Vălean  
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

**RE: Recognition of vehicle rental as an essential mobility and supply chain service provider**

Dear Ms. Vălean,

I am writing to you on behalf of Leaseurope, the trade federation representing automotive leasing and rental at European level. Leaseurope represents over 90% of all short-term rental operators in Europe, conducting over 55 million rental transactions annually.

All across Europe, the rental industry is an integral part of the supply chain and operating model for many businesses in the logistics sector, health services, police, social care, as well as local and central government. Whether it is Heavy Goods Vehicles, vans, ultra-low emission cars, minibuses or temperature-controlled trucks, our members are able to provide access to a huge variety of different vehicles at very short notice.

Whilst governments consider the measures it might take to limit the impact of COVID-19, I wanted to reiterate the vital role that the vehicle rental sector will play in maintaining the essential movement of people, goods and services as the situation evolves.

The measures necessary to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 continue to hugely limit not only the availability of alternative means of transport, but also the production of vehicle parts, and the operation of vehicle repair shops. Public transport in many countries has already been cut drastically, the production of vehicle parts (many of which are produced in China) has halted, and vehicle repair shops (which many people -including key workers- rely on to keep their vehicle in working order) have been required to close in most countries.

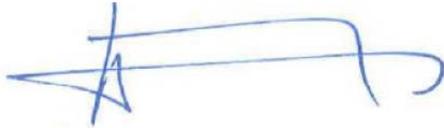
In effect, this combination of supply chain disruption and government action will not only prevent key workers from being able to repair their own vehicle when faced with issues, it will ultimately prevent them from being able to rely solely on public transport or -in a number of cases- their own vehicle to get to and from their workplace.

The short-term rental industry could play a key role in mitigating the impact this unprecedented level of supply chain disruption and government measures has on the ability of key workers and goods to continue to move, and ensuring minimal disruption occurs for vital goods and services. It goes without saying that our industry operates in accordance with the guidance set by the relevant national health authorities.

For these reasons, it is very important that any planned business or transport closures being considered do not include vehicle rental branches. We have already seen rental branches exempted from such closures in France, Germany, Spain, Ireland and Austria, due to their essential role in providing mobility to frontline services personnel and to ensure supply continuity.

We fully appreciate that it is for each Member State to determine the nature of the restrictions they apply during the crisis, but we would ask the Commission to recognise the key and flexible role that rental vehicles can play in ensuring essential mobility of people and goods at this most challenging of times.

Yours Sincerely,



Patrick Beselaere  
Leaseurope President

### **About us**

Leaseurope brings together 45 member associations representing the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries in the 32 European countries in which they are present. The scope of products covered by Leaseurope members' ranges from hire purchase and finance leases to operating leases of all asset categories (automotive, equipment, machinery, ICT and real estate). It also includes the short term rental of cars, vans and trucks. Leaseurope represents around 1,700 leasing companies across Europe, with over 70,000 employees and represents approximately 91% of the European leasing market.

**Leaseurope is entered into the European Transparency Register of Interest Representatives with ID n° 430010622057-05**