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Harmonising markings and lighting

By Alex Dahm | 5 February 2018



Harmonising markings and lighting across Europe

Moves are under way to harmonise standards and regulations governing lighting and marking on heavy transport throughout Europe.

An inaugural meeting of a new technical working group was held at the end of January. Organised by the European association for abnormal road transport and mobile cranes (ESTA), the meeting took place in Frankfurt, Germany, and was hosted by the German association and ESTA member BSK.

The eleven-strong group was co-chaired by ESTA's Section Transport president André Friderici, technical director at Swiss specialized transport company Friderici Special, and ESTA vice-president Iffet Türken, executive board member at trailer manufacturer Kässbohrer.

As a first step, the group started collecting and analysing information about the different regulations in force in different European states. This includes the methods of cargo and vehicle marking; rotating beacons; side marker lighting and conspicuity marking. "This is a really important issue - unnecessary and often petty rules, differing from country to country, make the industry less efficient and less safe and ultimately put up costs for our clients," Iffet Türken explained. "What is more, such rules can be used as a form of protectionism to discriminate unfairly against international carriers," Türken added.

In addition to ESTA and BSK, organisations on the working group were the Dutch association TLN; Tii Group; Hipertrans, Broshuis, Kässbohrer and Faymonville.

ESTA hopes that the new working group will produce best practice standards that can be adopted by national government and international bodies to make them binding.

Details of the project were first announced at ESTA's autumn meeting in Krakow, Poland, in October 2017. Hosted by OSPNT, the Polish Heavy Transport Association, the Krakow meeting was attended by almost 250 ESTA members and guests from 25 countries.

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