

The Department of Transport

Leeson Lane

Dublin 2

DO2 TR60

30 November 2022

Re: 10-Year Road Haulage Strategy

To whom it may concern,

As a Chamber of Commerce representing over 320 companies in Shannon and the wider Mid-West region, Shannon Chamber is cognisant of the vital role the road haulage sector plays in growing the region's economy. We welcome the fact that the Department of Transport is working towards developing a ten-year strategy for this sector, driven by the need to generate efficiencies and improve standards, as well as helping the sector to move to a low-carbon future.

Having recently established a Sustainability Task Force to encourage and enable our members to attain carbon neutral in line with the Government's Climate Action Plan, we would like to make comment by way of contribution to the new road haulage strategy.

Our membership in this sector have made us aware of the fact that the most sustainable new development in European road transport has been the European Modular System, which, with gross weights of up to 60T and 25.25m in length, allows for a 54% increase in pallet capacity, through attaching a 7 metre trailer(s) to a standard 13.6 trailer.

We have been advised that this system has been trialled throughout Europe and has been found to be most sustainable as it reduces the number of engines required to transport an increased number of trailers e.g., one truck with additional trailers attached. Introducing such a system would contribute to increased fuel efficiency, address the issue of driver shortage in the sector and reduce congestion on the roads. It is a very environmentally friendly system with Co2 savings of 25%.

Shannon Chamber concurs with our road haulage members' views that this system should be given consideration by the Department of Transport when formulating the new 10-year Road Haulage Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Helen Downes

Chief Executive