



Update on COVID-19 outbreak
March 10th (16:00)
Impact on freight and passenger transport

Austria – updated on 10.03.2020

In view of the latest developments in the corona virus, the Austrian Federal Government today presented a new package of measures. According to Chancellor Sebastian Kurz (ÖVP), an entry stop for people from Italy to Austria applies - exceptions are only possible with a medical certificate.

- Goods transport from and to Italy should continue to take place. Border controls are being introduced. Transport companies have to be prepared for delays. Passing through is only permitted if no stops are made; There are exceptions for freight transport (we cannot yet say how they are handled).
- Austrians from Italy are brought home - however, they have to be isolated for two weeks. Passenger traffic by train and plane to Italy will be stopped, said Nehammer (Minister of the Interior).
- As of today, fever is measured in Carinthia and Tyrol at the border crossings to Italy.

Source: AISÖ

Azerbaijan – updated on 02.03.2020

Border crossing points of Azerbaijan that are open to transport with Iran has been temporarily closed since 22.02.2020.

Latest info received, on 10.03.2020

- IR-TR: tractors from each country make the transports of the trailers on their territory. Tractors change at the borders: the drivers do not cross borders, only trailers do. This situation is very difficult to handle.
 - o There are also discussions and feasibility analysis to use rail in a more extensive way.
- IR-AZ: the trade is normal, trucks are allowed to pass with the drivers, and there are restrictions on passengers' movements only.

Source: IRU Secretariat

Bulgaria – updated on 10.03.2020

- In connection with the registered 4 cases of COVID-19 on the territory of Bulgaria and in order to prevent its further spread, the Minister of Health has issued the following orders:
 - In Gabrovo and Pleven districts till further notice have been taken infection prevention and control measures for the hospitals and educational institutions; all public events are suspended;
 - On the territory of all other administrative areas the visits to cultural events are suspended, sports events to be held without audience; all public events with participation of children are suspended;

- At the border crossing points selective health checks are carried out to the persons (passengers and drivers), coming from the most affected countries (China, South Korea, Iran and Italy).
- The transport companies operating internationally and nationally have instructed the staff and the drivers to implement the protective measures given by WHO and to avoid short distance contacts.
- There is no restriction to perform transit operations.
- There is still no statistical information for the economic impact on the transport sector.

Source: AEBTRI

Belgium – updated on 10.02.2020

Companies can use the system of temporary unemployment in situations in which one or more drivers are placed in quarantine or are no longer able to come to work, but also in case the company's activities would come to a standstill.

Companies can also put drivers on temporary unemployment for **economic reasons** in case of a sharp drop in activity.

Official website on the coronavirus in Belgium: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/>

Source: GTL

Czech Republic – updated on 10.02.2020

The national government has decided on controls at the borders. Customs and firefighters distribute coronavirus leaflets to drivers and measure temperature to **passengers at random**. For measurement, people select according to visual condition. We have already noticed that the truck driver was transported to the infectious ward for examination.

Source: CESMAD Bohemia

China (People's Republic of) – updated on 10.03.2020

So far, the epidemics situation is getting quite stabilized in China, but the government remains taking very stringent measures to avoid abrupt rebound.

Regarding border opening status:

1. All borders from China side remain open, but KGZ and TJK's borders remain closed from KGZ and TJK side.
2. Among five borders with KAZ, normal transport movement is getting back in Alashankou BCP, while the auxiliary services in another 4 borders are not fully in operation for normal business, most transport movements are for epidemics control necessities.
3. Borders with Russia and Mongolia remain normal.
4. Drivers in KAZ and RUS are required to be quarantined if returning from China.

Sources: China Customs, TASS information agency, IRU China Office

Denmark – updated on 10.03.2020

The Government has issued a recommendation to cancel all events with above 1000 participants. Furthermore, there are travel recommendations as well as 14 days quarantine in case someone has been close to someone with Corona virus.

So far, no operational restriction are foreseen in the country.

Information from members especially from coach transport operators is that they receive massive cancellations at the moment. Also taxi operators see a steep loss of clients.

Source: Dansk PersonTransport / DPT

France – updated on 02.03.2020

The Ministry of Health has announced that public gathering of more than 5'000 people in closed environments are automatically cancelled.

Current recommendations are:

- For people coming from red zone (Wuhan): 14-day quarantine when coming back from the zone
- People coming from orange zones – Italy, Iran, China, Singapore, South-Korea, Hong-Kong and Macao – are advised to slow down their social life and to measure their temperature twice a day
- People living in the infected zones in France are advised to stay at home and to not leave the zone

The Ministry of Health informed that these transitory measures could evolve soon.

Source: AFTRI

Georgia – updated on 10.03.2020

Due to the current situation about corona virus cases, a new measure has been put in practice by Georgian authorities and according to the new measure, people who travelled to Iran, South Korea, China and Italy within the last 28 days are not allowed by Georgian authorities to enter Georgia.

Source: IRU secretariat

Germany – updated on 10.03.2020

The most up-to-date version of German “COVID-19” regulations concerning international transport can be found under <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Artikel/LF/coronavirus-anordnung.html> .

This is a rough overview of the regulations’ content at this point of time:

- **At this point of time, regulations are addressing passenger transport only**
- The measures aim at obliging international carriers of passenger transports to inform their passengers about the situation and at assisting the Health Services by making passengers fill in “Aussteigekarten” (disembarkation cards) to self-declare their status (see https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/Dokumente_Tab.html for examples of disembarkation cards, which may vary according to the country of

departure). At this point of time, filling-in of disembarkation cards is mandatory for passengers arriving from Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea and China but may of course be adapted as the outbreak evolves.

- Multilingual information leaflets are being dispatched to passengers upon arrival in Germany, informing about the virus, recommendations concerning behaviour and the responsible contacts in case a person suspects to suffer from COVID-19 infection. Please note leaflets can be downloaded in different languages from https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/Info_Reisende_Tab.html.

Greece – updated on 10.03.2020

- The Greek Ministry of Health has not applied any compulsory measures for road transport nor for logistics companies. There is a general guideline to take all necessary measures in order to ensure hygiene conditions and the good health of employees (wash hands regularly, maintain social distance...). Some of the companies provide to their drivers with hand antiseptic liquids, surgical face masks, and latex gloves, but these are protective measures taken by companies.

Up to now, all border crossing points of the country remain open and the movement of goods is done without any disruption. At the Greek ports where ships leave to Italy, all passengers (incl. truck drivers) are asked to provide their personal contact details so that they can be easily tracked and notified in case a Covid-19 incident occurs among ship passengers. Other than this, no other special measures and shipping lines operate normally

Source: OFAE

Iran – updated on 10.03.2020

Transport Operations from/to Iran:

- To increase capacity of railway transportation via Kapikoy BorderGate, necessary measure will be taken by related authorities. TOBB, Turkish State Railways and Turkish Exporters Assembly will come together to discuss transport procedures and possible options on 11.03.2020.
- Disinfection will be carried out by Turkish authorities at Kapikoy border gate.
- Goods and containers which go to Iran, are going to be carried by Iranian vehicles and drivers from Bazargan to final destination point in Iran, (this decision will need final approval)
- Goods and containers which go to Turkey and other countries, are going to be carried by Turkish vehicles and drivers from Gurbulak to final destination point, (this decision will need final approval)
- Turkish authorities will allow Iranian drivers and trucks to enter Turkey if they are not traveled to China, Iran, Iraq, South Korea and Italy within last 14 days. If they entered mentioned countries in last 14 days, Iranian drivers and Iran trucks will not allowed by Turkish authorities to enter Turkey.
- Turkish authorities will allow Iranian trucks to load goods for their return operation to Iran (except goods in ports – there is a restriction for foreign trucks and they cannot load goods from Turkish ports)

Transport Operations to Middle East countries:

- Due to long waiting times at Sarp Border Gate, Turkish associations will stimulate their members to use Turkgozu Border Gate and The **Baku–Tbilisi–Kars** (BTK) railway

Source: IRU Secretariat

Iraq – updated on 10.03.2020

Border crossing points of Iraq that are open to transport with Iran will be closed for a week from March 8th to 15th. Iran's borders including Khosravi, Soumar, Mehran, Chazabeh and Shalamchah will not operate during the week.

Transport Operations from/to Iraq:

- Goods and containers which go to Iraq, are going to be carried by Iraqi vehicles and drivers from Halil Ibrahim Border Gate to final destination point in Iraq.
- Goods and containers which go to Turkey and other countries, are going to be carried by Turkish vehicles and drivers from Habur Border Gate to final destination point.
- Trucks which are carrying foods, perishable products, live animals and medical equipment will have priority to pass border gate.

Source: IRU Secretariat

Italy – updated on 10.03.2020

In a press conference convened on Monday evening 9 March 2020, the Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced the promulgation of a new provision - Prime Minister's Decree - which extends the provisions to the whole national territory and the rules established previously for the "Orange Zone" or "Protected Zone". The measure should be promulgated with validity March 10, 2020.

According to the Premier, the date identified as the term of the measure remains April 3, 2020. The Civil Protection has enacted an ordinance which establishes that any applicability of the Government measure doesn't apply to the transit and transport of goods and to the whole logistic chain from and to the indicated areas, so vehicles with goods can enter and leave territories.

In addition, people will have limited movements in all the country and the Government has launched a media campaign #iostocasa (#Istayathome): activity will be limited in Italy until April 3rd.

Sources: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FIAP

Kazakhstan – updated on 04.03.2020

In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural development of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed that vessels services at Aktau and Kurik ports will be temporarily restricted for ships arriving from Azerbaijan and Iran as from March 5th. Transport of passengers and vehicles with drivers is suspended.

More information is available [here](#) (in Russian).

Source: KAZATO

Kyrgyzstan – updated on 05.03.2020

In addition to the closing of the land border between Kyrgyzstan and China effective from February, Kyrgyz authorities have taken additional measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus. From March 1st, people from China, Japan, Iran, South Korea and Italy are not allowed to enter Kyrgyzstan.

Source: Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

Netherlands – updated on 10.03.2020

For one province (Noord-Brabant, bordering Belgium) people are advised to work at home if possible, stay at home with a (mild) cold, fever or other complaint linked to the virus. Random testing will take place in Brabant this Saturday. For more information [please click here](#) (in English). There are no travel restriction for the Netherlands itself/as a whole). People in the whole of the Netherlands are advised not to shake hands.

Source: Busvervoer Nederland

Mongolia – updated on 10.03.2020

National and international passenger transportation in Mongolia is restricted starting from today till 18 March, but goods transportation is not prohibited yet.

Source: IRU China office

Romania – updated on 10.03.2020

- The suspension of road transport of passengers by regular services, special regular services and occasional services in international traffic for all the journeys performed by the transport operators to/from Italy from/to Romania starting from 10.03.2020 at 12h00 until 31.03. 2020 at 12h00 (Romanian time).

- Road transport operators performing carriage of passengers by regular services, special regular services and occasional services transiting Italy have the obligation to communicate to Romanian citizens at the picking up from Italy to Romania, that they will enter in quarantine/self-isolation on the territory of Romania and they will assume the responsibility of filling up a form at their own responsibility on boarding in the bus.

Other measures taken by the National Committee for Special Emergency Situations in Romania between 09.03.2020, 12h00 - 31.03.2020, 12:00:

- All the flights to and from Italy are suspended, air carriers are compelled to not allow the boarding of citizens others than Romanians coming to Romania, with a layover, from Italy, China, Iran and South Korea. Foreign citizens arriving from Italy, China, Iran and South Korea, regardless of the means of transportation used, will be allowed into Romania only if they enter in quarantine or self-isolation.

- Freight transports of at least 3.5 tonnes, and maritime and river transport are excluded from the imposed restrictions.

The above-mentioned measures apply to the whole national territory between 09.03.2020, 12h00 - 31.03.2020, 12:00, subject to extend the restricted period, [more details here in Romanian language](#).

The National Health Insurance House in Romanian (CNAS) mentions in a Press Release that the insured persons may benefit from a leave period and compensation for the period spent in quarantine, [details here in Romanian language](#).

Source: UNTRR

Russian Federation – updated on 06.03.2020

Cross-border passenger movement remains closed completely between Russia and China. After some 10% decline in cross-border freight transport in February (vs Feb/2019), the situation is now back, close to normal. However, transport operations into China's hinterland are still not possible because some roads are still closed by the Chinese authorities. Russian drivers are then recommended to pick up or unload goods in a logistics centre close to the border and return to the Russian territory the same day.

Source: IRU Secretariat

Slovenia – updated on 10.03.2020

Slovenia is introducing border controls on the main border crossing, while closing the secondary ones. Controls might replicate those put in place by Austria (random checks based on nameplates, with particular attention to those coming from Lombardy and Veneto).

Sweden – updated on 10.03.2020

No specific restrictions regarding travel/transport has been put in place. Basic hygiene recommendations has been issued.

Switzerland - updated on 10.03.2020

Important clarification on cross-borders activities:

Italy has confirmed to Switzerland that the border between the two countries remains open to cross-border commuters. Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio announced this to his counterpart, Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis, in a telephone conversation. The Italian foreign minister has confirmed this news in a media release. All workers can continue to move to work, both between the Italian regions and between Switzerland and Italy.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/de/home/das-eda/aktuell/newsuebersicht/2020/01/corona-virus.html>

Source: ASTAG

UK – updated on 10.03.2020

Info related to Passenger Transports

As of today, official advice consists of measures to limit the spread of the virus, namely frequent handwashing and sneezing into a tissue for everybody and self-isolation and testing for people who develop the symptoms. There are stronger measures for people arriving in the UK from the most affected countries abroad (including Italy). People have not been officially advised to avoid public transport.

There is official advice for workers in the transport sector [here](#). There are no specific health check measures for transport employees.

There are no operational restrictions. In instances where coaches have been used to carry quarantined people arriving in the UK, the drivers have been put into quarantine with the passengers.

Source: CPT UK

Turkey – updated on 02.03.2020

Due to the current situation about corona virus cases, border crossing points of Turkey which are open to Iran has been closed by Turkish authorities:

- Turkish nationals (vehicles and drivers) cannot enter to Iran or transit through Iran anymore. Turkish nationals who are still waiting in Iran can however cross back the border.
- Foreign vehicles and passengers coming from Iran are not allowed by Turkish authorities to enter Turkey. Foreign plated trucks can however cross the border to Iran for bilateral transport operation and for transit transport operation via Iran, but they would not be able to cross back the border to Turkey.

On the other side, as a new measure, border crossing points of Turkey which are open to Iraq, has been closed by Turkish authorities since 29.02.2020. According to the new measure, goods and containers which go to Iraq, are going to be carried by Iraqi vehicles and drivers from Halil Ibrahim Border Gate to final destination point in Iraq.

All above mentioned measures cause long waiting times at border crossing points and Turkish customs authorities and other related authorities take necessary measures to accelerate border crossing processes.

Source: IRU Secretariat

Turkmenistan – updated on 02.03.2020

Border crossing points of Turkmenistan that are open to transport with Iran has been temporarily closed since 22.02.2020.

Source: IRU Secretariat

Information from the European Commission

- **Rail**
 - Preliminary advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 on board of trains and at rail stations in the EU/EEA Member States
- **Road:**
 - Preliminary advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at ground crossings (buses and bus stations) in the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) Member States (MS)
- **General advice at points of entry for public health measures and screening:**

- Interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at points of entry in the European Union/EEA Member States - Public health measures at points of entry (VERSION 3 - 20/02/2020)
- Interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease at points of entry in the European Union (EU)/EEA Member States (MS) - Exit and entry screening at points of entry

Source: [EU Healthy Gateways joint action](#)