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## **Concerning disruptions of border traffic at the Polish-Ukrainian border**

This letter is about ongoing disruptions of border traffic at the Polish-Ukrainian border, which reached a new low point with the blockade of the border by Polish carriers. Since the outbreak of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Ukraine's economy is heavily dependent on a fluent flow of goods at its borders to the European Union. Despite the war and the risks for their workforce, many European companies – several from Germany – decided to stay in Ukraine and support the country. Those companies rely as well on a fluent flow of goods between the European Union and Ukraine.

### **Critical situation has been reached**

For several months we observe severe disruptions at the Polish-Ukrainian border, which cause long lasting waiting periods. Waiting times of up to two weeks threaten the businesses of European and Ukrainian companies in Ukraine. For several German companies this topic is of utmost importance. In the worst case, companies will shut down their business and leave Ukraine. This must be avoided.

The blockade is exacerbating the situation and leading to more delays in delivery and even cancellations of shipments from Germany. High unplanned demurrage affects interests of German, Polish and Ukrainian businesses. This must be turned back to a reliable process which is in the common interest of all stakeholders. Unblocking the border is the first step on that path, since it contradicts some EU regulations on trade and transit with Ukraine.

### **Short-term problem solving and clearing mechanism needed**

Regarding the involvement of international companies in Ukraine, fluent border traffic is a fundamentally important element in the decision to continue producing in the country or to consider Ukraine as an investment location. Reliable processing at the EU's external border is therefore essential, if German and other international companies are to be actively involved in the reconstruction and recovery process in Ukraine.

To ensure this, we call on all political stakeholders to find solutions in a timely manner to enable the smooth movement of people and goods on the Polish-Ukrainian border.

In the medium and long term, a conflict resolution mechanism must also be established so that dramatic developments such as those in autumn 2023 can be avoided or at least better managed. A corresponding clearing center at the European Commission could be an instrument for this. This process must be conceived and implemented at a European level, or at least with the involvement of representatives from Ukraine, Poland, Germany and the European Commission.

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