Several EU Member States have either closed borders with other members or imposed new health screening controls to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, freight circulation needs to continue to ensure European citizens will have access to food, medical equipment, medicines but also of all other goods that enable our society to cope with daily needs.

The European Commission issued new guidelines urging to ensure continued free movement of transport workers and supplies of food and medical supplies. Despite this, large queues are forming at several borders causing distress for the drivers but also delaying the supply of necessary products such as food, hygienic products or medicines.

Member States have been requested to designate selected border-crossing points as ‘Green Lane’ to guarantee essential products priority access. The Commission expects that going through these “green lane” border crossings, including any checks, should not exceed 15 minutes on internal land borders.

With this aim in view, the European GNSS Agency is supporting the development of a solution to prioritise certain shipments and ensure the critical deliveries are able to cross the border smoothly. It will support coordination between border authorities from receiving and outgoing countries, and facilitate the extraction of data for the enforcers to demonstrate the duration of the border crossing.

A simple location-based mobile application may help to offload borders and manage more efficiently the import of critical goods; at the same time providing the Member States a tool to report to the EU on the implementation of the “green lane” border crossings initiative. The mobile app would have the two following interfaces:

- **Border control authorities** are able to get a real-time visualization of the overall border situation for their country. They contribute to describe the flow of the traffic by commenting or taking pictures in case of any particular circumstance. Officials are also able to see a list of priority goods in the app.
- **Truck drivers** are able to get a real-time visualization of the relevant borders that they are crossing. When they enter a geo-fenced area within a specified distance to the border, they receive a notification regarding the status of the border and priority goods. Driver’s location is collected only when approaching the border and used to update (anonymously) on the overall border picture.

IRU members are kindly invited to participate in the pilot activity (starting before the end-April) to test the app at a selected border crossing and to be one of the first stakeholders to take advantage of this tool.