Position Paper: The eFTI Regulation and the Future of Freight Regional Transport in Europe

OPEN ENLoCC – European Network of Logistics Competence Centres

1. Introduction

OPEN ENLoCC (European Network of Logistics Competence Centres) is a non-profit association that brings together regional logistics hubs, research institutes, and public authorities across Europe. Our mission is to support **regional freight transport policies and innovation**, promote **interregional cooperation**, and strengthen **regional collaborative logistics** through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and EU project participation.

We strongly believe that **digital transformation in logistics must involve regional actors** — from public authorities to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), logistics operators, and multimodal hubs. These actors are essential in translating EU policies into real-world, territory-based impact.
We consider this implementing act a crucial step to operationalise the eFTI Regulation and make digital freight transport information a reality across Europe. As a network deeply rooted in regional ecosystems, we emphasise the importance of designing solutions that support interoperability, inclusiveness, and territorial implementation, especially in cross-border and multimodal contexts.

We respond to this consultation because we see the **eFTI Regulation** as a unique opportunity to boost **regional collaborative logistics**. The digital sharing of freight transport data — if implemented inclusively and pragmatically — can empower regional ecosystems, improve coordination across borders, and enhance the sustainability and resilience of the logistics sector.

2. Why This Regulation Matters for Regional Logistics

The success of the eFTI Regulation depends not only on its technical robustness, but on its ability to engage local ecosystems, including SMEs, regional authorities, multimodal hubs, and ICT providers. These actors are key enablers of Europe's logistics performance and sustainability goals.

We see this implementing regulation as an opportunity to boost regional collaborative logistics, enabling smoother coordination among decentralised actors and unlocking local value through better data sharing. For this reason, we encourage the Commission to adopt an inclusive, flexible and interoperable approach to platform requirements.

3. Key Recommendations

1. Simplify and Support Interoperability Through Open Standards
    a. Ensure the mandatory use of open, non-proprietary standards for platform functionalities and interfaces.
    b. Encourage modular and lightweight implementation to reduce barriers for small actors and legacy systems.
    c. Support reference implementations and documentation to accelerate alignment among ICT developers.
2. Strengthen Support for SMEs and Regional Actors
    a. eFTI solutions must be designed and implemented taking into account the practical needs of operators on the ground. Usability, simplicity, and integration with existing systems are crucial to ensure widespread and seamless adoption. It is fundamental to avoid overly complex or costly solutions that could hinder adoption, especially for SMEs.
    b. Acknowledge in the regulation's annex or preamble the need for targeted financial and technical support for SMEs and small logistics clusters.
    c. Promote the development of regional eFTI demonstrators to pilot implementation and facilitate uptake at local level.
3. Promote a User-Centric Design Approach
    a. Encourage eFTI platform developers to integrate usability principles, including multilingual interfaces, offline functionalities, and mobile access.
    b. Reduce complexity for onboarding and data entry, especially for small operators not using high-end enterprise systems.
4. Enable Regional Collaborative Logistics Use Cases
    a. Facilitate decentralised and collaborative data access among regional authorities, logistics nodes, and multimodal operators.
    b. Encourage the integration of eFTI platforms with regional logistics observatories, public-private partnerships, and local transport platforms.
5. Ensure Robust Cybersecurity, But Proportionate to the Actor
    a. While we support strict security requirements, we encourage a proportional approach that distinguishes between platform types (e.g., centralised vs tributary ICT systems).
    b. Promote guidance documents and training programmes for small actors on compliance and certification.
    c. The protection of sensitive commercial data and the assurance of privacy are absolute priorities. OPEN ENLoCC calls for eFTI platforms to be developed with the highest cybersecurity standards and for robust measures to be

implemented to prevent data breaches and unauthorized access. Operators trust in the security of the system is fundamental for its large-scale adoption.

6. Monitor Implementation with a Regional Lens
    a. Establish monitoring indicators to assess regional and cross-border adoption of eFTI platforms.
    b. Involve regional logistics networks and clusters in the evaluation and refinement of technical requirements.

The European Network of Logistics Competence Centres (OPEN ENLoCC) welcomes Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on eFTI as a fundamental step towards the modernization and digitalization of the freight transport sector in Europe. We believe that eFTI has the potential to unlock significant efficiencies, reduce administrative burdens, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient logistics system. However, OPEN ENLoCC emphasizes that the success of this initiative will largely depend on a pragmatic, inclusive, and well-coordinated implementation that considers the needs and challenges faced by economic operators, particularly SMEs.

4. Conclusion

The eFTI Regulation represents a bold and necessary step towards the digitalisation of freight transport in Europe. If implemented correctly, it has the potential to transform the sector, making it more efficient, transparent, sustainable, and globally competitive.

However, this transformation must reach all levels of the logistics ecosystem, including the regional and local actors that often manage the day-to-day complexity of freight operations. In this context, regional collaborative logistics – the structured cooperation among authorities, operators, and service providers at regional level – can act as a powerful enabler of eFTI's success.

By improving data exchange across borders and modes, and by involving regional logistics platforms, hubs, and SMEs, the eFTI Regulation can become a catalyst for territorial innovation, helping regions to optimise transport flows and reduce fragmentation.

OPEN ENLoCC firmly believes that the benefits of eFTI can only be fully realised through close collaboration between European institutions, Member States, and economic operators. We invite the Commission to consider the **regional dimension** not as an add-on, but **as a core layer of the European logistics landscape**.

We reiterate our commitment to working with all stakeholders to ensure that eFTI becomes a success — delivering tangible value and empowering regions to play an active role in shaping a more digital, resilient and sustainable logistics system.

We are ready to contribute with our knowledge, field experience and network of regional actors to guide this transformation, ensuring that policies reflect operational realities and unlock synergies across the supply chain.

Only through a collaborative and forward-looking approach can we build a truly interconnected and competitive European logistics ecosystem — from local to global.