



PRESS RELEASE

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VIASAT AND FIAP: TECHNOLOGY AT THE SERVICE OF HEAVY TRANSPORT SAFETY

The 6 august tragic explosion of a tank truck carrying LPG on a highway in Bologna - Norther Italy, is only the latest in a long series of accidents that, in one-third of cases, are caused by distraction or by drivers falling asleep. After a fruitful discussion with FIAP (*Federazione Italiana degli Autotrasportatori Professionali* [Italian Federation of Professional Hauliers]) on these matters, Viasat has decided to launch a solution onto the market to help improve safety for heavy vehicles circulating on the Italian roadways. Thanks to Viasat's telematic devices, **the fleet manager of a haulage company can verify in real time, by connecting to the vehicle's tachograph**, if the driver is adhering to driving and rest-time rules, as set out in the EU regulations. Furthermore, the monitoring of drivers' driving time and rest periods and the management of automatic alarms can also be outsourced to the **Viasat 24H Operations Centre** that, in case of driver's violation or potentially dangerous driving style, can swiftly intervene to prevent situations that can put safety at risk.

"Our technology systems", adds **Valerio Gridelli, CEO of Viasat**, "via the Can-Bus connection of the vehicle and the triaxial accelerometer, can detect abnormal driving behaviour. In this way the fleet manager or our Operations Centre can communicate with the driver to verify the situation and prevent a potential sudden onset of sleep".

"Every time a tragic accident on the roads involving heavy transport vehicles is registered, the old debate on technologies for active and passive safety reopens" comments **Domenico Petrone, President of the Viasat Group**. "The newer vehicles have advanced safety systems, the problem is the old vehicles, since the average age of a fleet is 11.3 years for vehicles with a capacity of or greater than 16t. The Viasat technology that we speak of is already available on the market and can be installed on board in any vehicle, regardless of its age".

Everyone agrees with the fact that **technology can effectively help to prevent the risk of serious accidents** or, in any case, limit the consequences, however the simple acknowledgement of this circumstance is not enough.

"Every technological support that can contribute to better safety on the roads and prevent dangerous situations at any level, especially for vehicles engaged in professional transport services, gains our complete attention" adds **Massimo Bagnoli, President of FIAP**. "It is this continuous search for prevention and improvement, through both the professionalism of the companies and their staff members, and the quality of the technical solutions singled out and installed in the vehicles, that expresses the Viasat and FIAP initiative".

Who is Viasat – *European excellence in satellite safety systems that integrate the most modern telematic technologies and IoT to guarantee the total safety of the vehicle and its occupants in the market of Satellite Anti-theft, Insurance Telematics, Fleet Management and Big Data systems. Since 2002 it has been a part of the Viasat Group, a company present whether directly or through local distributors, in around 50 countries (Europe, Africa, Middle East, South America) in addition to 650 staff members and more than 2 million product devices for the Telematics Service Provider market on a global scale.*

Who is FIAP - Federazione Italiana degli Autotrasportatori Professionali (*Italian Federation of Professional Hauliers*) - *is the most historic trade union, that - for over 60 years- has been gathering authentic trucking professionals, and supporting the interests of road transport operators of goods and passengers in Italy. FIAP is at the forefront in protecting and upholding the rights of lorry drivers by combining its local presence with its ability, as national institution, to actively participate in all initiatives to further the interests of small, medium and large road transport companies.*

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