

Prior Information Notice

Subject: Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Information Meeting

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Date: 11 September 2019

1.1

Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge (HGVC)

The Coalition Agreement stipulates that, following the example of neighbouring countries, the Netherlands will introduce a Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge as soon as possible. By means of the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge, the Cabinet wants to achieve the following objectives:

- to make Dutch and foreign hauliers pay for the use made of roads, by converting a fixed tax (motor vehicle tax and Eurovignette) to a variable charge payable for each kilometre driven. Therefore, hauliers will pay more than they currently pay for using a road;
- to innovate in the Dutch transport sector and make it sustainable. It was agreed in the Coalition Agreement that revenues from the HGVC will be channelled back into the transport sector in consultation with the sector by allocating funds for innovation and sustainability in addition to reducing the motor vehicle tax on heavy goods vehicles.

Within the system, the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management will act as the Toll Charger for each kilometre driven by a heavy goods vehicle, with the level of the charge dependent upon the maximum mass and emission class of a heavy goods vehicle. The heavy goods vehicle charge will be payable on road sections, i.e. on specific roads or parts thereof, as indicated in the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Act.

More information about the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge and Programme is obtainable via

www.vrachtwagenheffing.nl

Market players will be engaged for a number of tasks under the system for the heavy goods vehicle charge. On the one hand, commercial providers of toll services, known as EETS providers, will collect the heavy goods vehicle charge on behalf of the government. These activities will be established under the EETS track of the HGVC programme. On the other hand, there will be tasks in the field of collection, enforcement and information that will be outsourced to market players as public contracts. These activities will be established under the HGVC programme through the market/procurement track.

Under the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge programme, the Ministry wishes to be in regular contact with market players to test proposed measures and choices in the context of the programme. This contact will take place for the first time at a Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Day on 14 October 2019. It is possible that the Ministry will ask market players a number of questions prior to this information meeting. A number of bilateral EETS sessions will subsequently be held on 15 and 16 October.

1.2 Planning

The Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge programme has already started by means of preparations for introducing the HGVC. In phase 1 (2018), the policy principles were drawn up and the policy framework was laid down. The programme is currently in phase 2, during which the draft law is being discussed and implementation is being prepared. The planning below for phases 2 and 3 is approximate and contains only the activities that are relevant in the context of this notice.

2019	General information meeting with market players about the proposed system for the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge.
From 2020	After adoption of the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Act, a decision will be taken on how contracts will be outsourced under the system for the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge. Market consultation will take place prior to calls for tenders. Calls for tenders will be published.
From 2021	Definitive awarding of contracts.
From 2022	Start of creation of the system for the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge.
From 2023	Start of the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge.

1.3 Work packages

The Ministry has provisionally identified ten work packages, which are briefly described below.

- EETS Service Providers

The EETS Service Providers work package is aimed at commercial service providers that offer recording facilities and systems that enable holders of heavy goods vehicles to comply with the payment obligation. They will collect the charges and remit them to the Toll Charger. EETS service providers that want to be active in the Netherlands must be accredited by the Dutch authorities.

- Domain Context Data

The work package for Domain Context Data includes offering up-to-date information on toll roads and tariffs. The information must be easily accessible digitally by parties including the EETS service providers, the Main Service Provider and the Toll Charger.

- Main Service Provider

This work package comprises the functionality of Main Service Provider (MSP). The Main Service Provider will, just like the EETS service providers, provide recording facilities and systems that enable holders of heavy goods vehicles to meet their payment obligation. The MSP will further take care of collection of the charges and their remittance to the Toll Charger. The MSP will be under obligation to accept as customers any heavy goods vehicle holders who are unable or unwilling to enter into a contract with an EETS service provider.

- Systems of the Toll Charger

The work package for Systems of the Toll Charger concerns the back-office IT system of the Toll Charger and consists of a financial accounting system, a contract management system and a reporting system.

- Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Information Desk

The work package for the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge Information Desk consists of a desk that on behalf of the Toll Charger will provide information to all heavy goods vehicle holders and other interested parties and will offer them a service for dealing with any questions or complaints. The information desk will use channels such as telephone, e-mail, post, web chat and social media.

- Public Guidance Campaign

The Public Guidance Campaign work package consists of a campaign to inform heavy goods vehicle holders and other users about the heavy goods vehicle charge system and any developments and changes.

- Accreditation of Service Providers

The work package for the Accreditation of Service Providers consists of offering services, including testing products and systems, for the purpose of accrediting EETS service providers.

- Observation

The Observation work package concerns the delivery of vehicle passage reports from a number of fixed and variable locations in the Dutch road network. This involves reporting all heavy goods vehicles that pass a location. A report will in any event include a number of prescribed photographs, a read-out of the on-board equipment of the heavy goods vehicle and a reading of the registration number of the heavy goods vehicle.

- Supervision & Inspection

The Supervision & Inspection work package consists of a back-office system by means of which the Toll Charger can receive, analyse and distribute data. The system must ensure compliance with the heavy goods vehicle charge and must use analyses to detect fraud.

- Mobile Inspection Units

The work package for Mobile Inspection Units comprises mobile inspection units (handheld devices) that can be used to read out on-board equipment.

1.4 Information meeting 14 - 16 October 2019

The Ministry is organising an information meeting in October 2019 at the WTC in Amsterdam (Strawinskylaan 1, 1077 XW Amsterdam) where there will be a general information session on the Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge, a plenary EETS session, bilateral meetings with EETS service providers, and an initial introduction to the work packages related to the procurement track of the programme.

The planning for the information meeting is as follows:

14 October, 10:00 - 14:15 hrs General information session

During this session, interested parties will be informed about the current status of the heavy goods vehicle charge in the Netherlands and the intended system. Particular attention will be devoted to elements of the Dutch system that differ from systems in other countries. English will be the working language during this session.

14 October, 14:30 - 16:30 hrs Plenary EETS session

The EETS session will be a plenary session for parties interested in the EETS track of the programme. A number of EETS-related aspects of the system will be discussed. English will be the working language during this session.

14 October, 14:30 - 16:30 hrs Introduction to the work packages in the procurement track

During the introduction to the work packages, an explanation will be given of the intended classification of the contracts to be outsourced for the purpose of the heavy goods vehicle charge. Particular attention will be devoted to the activities of the Main Service Provider and the work packages for Observation, Supervision & Inspection and Systems of the Toll Charger. Dutch will be the working language during this session. The report on the session will also be made available in English.

It is possible that prior to the information meeting the Ministry will ask a number of questions about the aforementioned work packages. These questions may be discussed during the information meeting. It is not obligatory to have answered the raised questions in order to participate in the Introduction to Work Packages session in the procurement track of the programme.

15 and 16 October 2019 Individual EETS meetings

Interested parties (prospective EETS providers, their resellers and business partners) can have a bilateral meeting with Ministry representatives on 15 or 16 October 2019 provided that they have registered on time for such a meeting. Participants in these meetings will receive timely notification of the time reserved for them. English will be the working language during these meetings.

1.5

Registration

Registration for one or more sessions must take place before 8 October 2019 via the email address:

vrachtwagenheffing@minienw.nl

A registration will be final after it has been confirmed by the Ministry. Each enterprise may be represented by a maximum of 3 people.

Let us know your company name, names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the participants.

When registering you must state what you wish to participate in. There are the following options:

- 1) General Information Session
- 2) Plenary EETS Session
- 3) Individual EETS Meetings
- 4) Introduction to Work Packages in the Procurement Track
- 5) Questions regarding the Main Service Provider
- 6) Questions regarding the work packages for Observation, Supervision & Inspection and Systems of the Toll Charger

Participation in the information meeting is not obligatory in order to participate in future market consultations, accreditations or calls for tender.

Parties will not receive a fee for participating in the information meeting.

Parties cannot derive any rights from their participation in the information meeting.