Dear all,

Please find below a flash report on the meeting between CAB SCHMIT members and Bolt representatives, which took place on 1 June.

Kind regards,

FLASH REPORT – Meeting between CAB SCHMIT members and BOLT representatives – 01/06/2021

Participants:

European Commission
- Ana Carla PEREIRA, Employment and Social Adviser to Commissioner SCHMIT
- Fabien DELL, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner SCHMIT
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Bolt
- Dominick MOXON-TRITSCH, Vice President for Regulation and Public Policy
- Aurelien POZZANA, Head of Public Policy for Western Europe and the EU

Main takeaways:
- Bolt has conducted a survey with 4500 of its own drivers in 8 EU Member states – their main takeaway is that drivers do not want to be employed and that an EU initiative reclassifying their drivers would reduce the number of drivers by up to two thirds.
- Furthermore: 70% of drivers want to be able to switch between platforms in order to maximise revenues; 46% value flexibility as the most important aspect of platform work, compared to 38% who would like higher earnings, 12% who want social protection and 2% who want paid holidays.
- Bolt claims that their ride-hailing business is the most economically rewarding job for low-skilled labour in Europe. Building on the findings of their survey, Bolt asked COM why would we go against the expressed will of drivers and reclassify them as employees.
- Bolt asked COM if the option of a third category status, which in their view would allow drivers to combine flexibility and protection, has been considered as a viable avenue for action.
• COM thanked Bolt for providing the results of the survey, and asked if they had data on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs held by Bolt drivers. Bolt replied it would have to get back to COM on this particular request.
• COM explained that the third category status has indeed been part of its analyses on the possible avenues for action, as well as of past analyses for instance on the TPWCD.
• COM concluded by saying that the increasing number of court cases on the employment status of people working through platforms is a powerful signal that the existing arrangements are not fit for purpose. Bolt agreed to share data from the survey with COM.