

**Question for written answer E-009062/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Inconsistencies in the road haulage sector

The road haulage sector is currently going through a major economic crisis that is placing great strain not only on the businesses operating in it, but also on their employees, and in turn on their families.

In such troubled times, the lack of any uniformity in the general rules and regulations governing the sector is causing significant problems.

European legislation sets out the maximum number of driving hours and minimum number of rest hours for lorry drivers per week, and also prohibits these rest hours from being taken in the cab of the lorry.

However, there is still no common legislation concerning the penalties that Member States should apply to those who do not obey these stipulations. The Dutch road hauliers' union CNV has recently revealed that ever since the penalties imposed on lorry drivers who spend their weekly rest allocation in their cabs were raised in France and Belgium, more and more drivers are crossing into the Netherlands and parking their vehicles alongside public roads, where they take the rest time allocated to them. I have been informed that the penalty may be as much as EUR 30 000 in France and EUR 1 800 in Belgium, whereas in the Netherlands (at least in some municipalities) the maximum penalty that can be imposed is EUR 200.

1. In light of the above, can the Commission reveal whether there are any plans to put forward a draft law for the road haulage sector that could iron out these inconsistencies?
2. If so, when is this expected to take place?