

**Question for written answer E-011289/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Claudia Schmidt (PPE)

Subject: Weekly rest periods for businesses supplying the tourist industry

The Commission is requested to examine the situation described below and to provide recommendations to the affected party as to what he may do to ensure that he acts in a way that implements Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 but is not prevented from earning a living.

The affected party runs a business which supplies fresh, hence easily damaged, produce to businesses in the catering trade six days a week (including at weekends). This is necessary to ensure that his customers in turn can offer the freshest possible produce to their guests. Owing to the driving time and rest periods applicable to him for trucks over 3.5 tonnes, the affected party thus runs up against the limits of what is legally allowed, especially as regards adherence to the requirement for an uninterrupted weekly rest period of 45 hours. Too many hours and too little rest are against the law, yet too few hours causes staffing problems for the business and financial problems as a result. Can the Commission issue a recommendation on what can be done about this problem, which poses an almost insoluble challenge for companies supplying the tourist industry in particular?