

**Question for written answer E-000344/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Statistics concerning cabotage

New Scandinavian studies drawn up over the last six months show that the extent of cabotage in Scandinavia is in many cases greater than stated in Eurostat. The studies accordingly criticise Eurostat for holding defective data on cabotage in Denmark and Sweden.

The investigation reveals that Eurostat underestimates the extent of cabotage in Denmark by at least 2.1%. In other words, cabotage accounts for 4.6% [of road haulage] rather than the 2.5% stated by Eurostat. The investigation also considers that cabotage could potentially constitute up to 8.5% [of road haulage] in Denmark. This is largely due to the fact that many countries do not supply accurate figures. For example, the investigation also shows that Bulgarian lorries in Sweden are mostly engaged in cabotage, while Eurostat maintains that Bulgarian lorries do not carry out any cabotage at all in Sweden.

At the hearings of the Commissioner candidates, including that of former Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, the extent of cabotage was mentioned as part of the discussion on how to deal with the problem of social dumping in the road transport sector.

What will the Commission do to ensure that accurate statistics are supplied in this sector, particularly given that the Commission is currently making use of a defective statistical basis?