

**Question for written answer E-006268/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: The Commission's definition of cabotage operations

Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 lays down rules concerning cabotage operations. However, the regulation does not contain a clear definition of what a cabotage operation is. At the same time, in recital 16 of the regulation it clearly states that cabotage operations should not create 'a permanent or continuous activity within [a] Member State [in which they are not established]'. In consideration of this aim it is essential that the concept of an operation is not eroded.

According to the Danish definition of a cabotage operation it can include several loading or unloading places, but not both. In light of this, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice to the Danish Government, because, according to the definition laid down by the Commission, a cabotage operation can include several loading as well as unloading places.

1. How does the Commission believe that its definition of a cabotage operation, which can include several loading and unloading places and therefore in reality can involve several operations, is compatible with the original aim of the cabotage rules in respect of

- a) limiting the opportunities for foreign drivers to compete unfairly with national drivers;
- b) ensuring reasonable capacity utilisation of the vehicles, which otherwise primarily undertake international operations?

2. What are its reasons for establishing the above definition, and in what way does it believe the Danish definition to be contrary to the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009?