

**Question for written answer E-006277/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Mandatory daytime running lights on vehicles

An article in the Danish trade journal *Ingeniøren* [The Engineer] on 5 March 2015¹ states that it has become a more common sight on Danish roads for rear lights to be switched off, the reason for this being an EU directive that was transposed into Danish law in 2011.

The directive requires lights on all vehicles to be switched on whenever the engine is switched on, but only the lights at the front, not those at the rear of the vehicle. This means that many drivers often forget to switch the rear lights on when it gets dark or when visibility would otherwise require it. The justification for this is a questionable one, namely that this measure saves fuel and therefore reduces CO₂ emissions.

The failure to use rear lights has on several occasions resulted in serious accidents on motorways, for example, and it can be assumed that the problem is particularly significant in northern Europe, where the days are short during the winter and where there is frequent rain, mist and sea fog.

Does the Commission agree that the failure to use rear lights can be dangerous after dark or in poor visibility?

Will it take the initiative and amend the directive to the effect that both front and rear lights are to be switched on whenever the vehicle is started?

¹ 'Slukkede baglygter: Stor risiko og minimal CO₂-besparelse' [Rear lights switched off: major risk and minimal CO₂ saving], *Ingeniøren* 5.3.2015