

Question for written answer E-007072/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Branislav Škripek (ECR)

Subject: Implementation of financial, economic and social measures regarding Slovak railway transport

On 17 November 2014, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the implementation of financial, economic and social measures regarding railway transport. Under these measures, children under the age of 15, students under the age of 26, people over the age of 62 and all recipients of pensions under the Social Insurance Act are entitled to travel free of charge on the national rail passenger service.

However, passengers can only file a claim through the state carrying agent, Slovak Railways, and this has resulted in a substantial disadvantage for private rail service providers, thereby distorting competition and the market environment. Furthermore, the entitlement applies to only one sector of public transport, thus putting users of other modes of transport, together with companies providing bus transport services, at a disadvantage.

In the Commission's opinion, could this situation be considered to be an infraction of competition rules?