

Question for written answer E-013686/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Discriminatory pricing of high-speed rail services

I have recently received reports of discriminatory pricing affecting rail passengers. Different fares were charged for the same journeys on the TGV high-speed train. More specifically, this was the case for a journey between Paris and Barcelona, where a ticket ordered from France cost little more than half the amount that it cost if the same ticket was ordered from another Member State. This clearly demonstrates that a single digital market by no means exists in this field at present.

Regrettably, I have found that such practices are relatively common. In many cases, it is vigilant members of the public who notice them. Companies then quickly adjust their fares when the discrimination is publicised. But it remains cause for concern that such practices are the order of the day and are only detected by chance. If they are not detected, the discrimination continues for a long time. Again, it is consumers who suffer.

Is the Commission aware of this recent case, and has it therefore also put questions to the SNCF on the subject?

Does the Commission have any recent statistics on how often such practices occur?

What plans does the Commission have to apply the existing legislation better and to make it possible to create a single digital market?