

Question for written answer E-000968/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jan Keller (S&D)

Subject: Assessment of the status of Uber

Uber is a software provider. However, given that all payments from customers to drivers and from drivers to the company are routed via the company's accounts, it is also a service provider. In some Member States, it publicly offers work driving taxis to people who do not have appropriate permits and who do not possess trading permits or licence deeds.

The fact that the company only registers customers' payment cards when it deducts money from them for fares means that oversight activities from both the transport authorities and the tax authorities are restricted. Through its operations, Uber is not only disrupting the business environment and undermining competition, but also economically weakening the entire EU, since the funds that it receives through its operations are very difficult to trace for taxation purposes.

1. Is the Commission carrying out an assessment into whether Uber is, pursuant to the legislation currently in force, merely a digital platform to which the 2006 Directive on services in the internal market would apply, or whether it in fact falls under the category of a transport company?
2. If so, what conclusions has the assessment reached, and when will these conclusions be made known?