

**Question for written answer E-004439/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protection of the rights of European workers

On Thursday 26 May, a French court acquitted a road haulage company which over a period of several years employed more than a thousand Romanian and Polish HGV drivers who were registered in their country of origin but working in France.

Many of the drivers would leave their country for weeks at a time to receive in France only 60% of the salary of French drivers, i.e. below the legal minimum wage.

It seemed clear that the company would be convicted for engaging in a huge operation of human exploitation, yet the court had to admit that the company had acted in strict compliance with EU transport regulations.

This is the situation into which European legislation has plunged workers in western Europe: either exploited if they come from the East, or unemployed. French road hauliers accounted for half of the international road haulage operations to or from France 15 years ago. Now, owing to these practices and posted workers, they account for less than 10%, with more than 20 000 jobs having been lost.

Does the Commission intend to put a stop to the approach followed by the European Union for 30 years, which not only facilitates exploitation but legalises it?