

**Question for written answer E-004734/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ole Christensen (S&D)**

Subject: Shortage of drivers in Europe

The attached newspaper article shows that the Danish haulage firm ICB A/S, via its Polish subsidiary, is seeking to recruit 20 drivers from the Philippines to drive in Europe. The firm's director, Benny Nielsen, says that this is due to the shortage of drivers in Poland and in Europe as a whole.

Can the Commission confirm that there are no drivers among the 1.5 million unemployed Poles, or among the other 20 million unemployed Europeans?

Does the Commission think the mere fact that a firm has advertised for workers in one Member State, and failed to meet its recruiting needs, is sufficient grounds for being authorised to import labour from third countries?

Will the Commission assess whether enough consideration has been given to the principle of EU preference in this specific case?