

**Question for written answer E-007242/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Obligation to replace driving licences in the EU

The single market is based on four pillars: the free movement of persons, capital, goods and services. Without guaranteeing them or abiding by them, it will be impossible to achieve a true common socio-economic space for more than 507 million Europeans.

However, despite the many changes that are occurring in EU law that make it easier to benefit from those EU freedoms, there are many Member States in which the mobility of EU citizens is still greatly limited. An example of this is the obligation to replace a driving licence of indefinite validity after two years of ordinary residence in a country other than that which issued the document. This provision may surprise some, particularly since the EU Directive on driving licences explicitly states that a driving licence issued in one Member State shall be recognised in all other Member States.

Today's society is mobile. We often change not only the company in which we work, but also the country in which we work. The need to replace a driving licence therefore contradicts not only the idea of EU citizenship, but above all the idea of the single market. It is, after all, impossible to assert that the common market is functioning properly if we have to change our documents when we change our place of work. Are we supposed to have 28 driving licences, 28 ID cards and 28 passports for this single Union?

In this connection, what steps does the Commission plan to take in order to eliminate this absurd situation?