

Question for written answer E-008643/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Proceedings against Germany and France for applying minimum wage rules to the international transport sector

In response to calls by various organisations representing companies operating in the transport sector, the Commission acknowledged that the systematic application of minimum wage rules in France and Germany to international transport operations that are not otherwise connected with the receiving Member State is a threat to the principle of free movement of goods and services in the EU.

On 16 June 2016, the Commission called on the French and German governments to address the issue within two months. Unfortunately, even though the deadline has passed and neither country has taken any action, the Commission has still not launched proceedings against France and Germany before the Court of Justice.

The continued uncertainty as to whether the German and French rules comply with EU law is causing serious harm to European transport companies. What is more, the lack of response from the Commission is likely to encourage other Member States to adopt similar rules designed to protect their own markets.

At what stage are the proceedings against Germany and France for applying minimum wage rules to the international transport sector, and why is the process dragging on so long – to the detriment not only of transport companies, but also of the Commission's own vision?