

**Question for written answer E-000474/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Barriers to free competition and the proper functioning of the single market raised by new Austrian laws

More and more frequently, Member States appear to be using social dumping as a pretext to protect their domestic companies against more competitive companies from other countries.

There are concerns that this may be the purpose of the amendment made to the Austrian act on wage and social dumping. Serious reservations have been voiced about the practical aspects of meeting the new requirements imposed on businesses, in particular in the international transport services sector. The lack of information provided by the Austrian Government on the requirement for employers to pay the Austrian minimum wage to workers posted to that country and to produce comprehensive pay records in German are resulting in firms withdrawing from the Austrian market so as not to be fined for having employees carry out 'illegal' work. It is not clear why companies are now being required to register services before providing them, which is particularly difficult in the case of transport services, given their unpredictable nature.

There is a suspicion that disproportionate, unjustified and excessive administrative and bureaucratic requirements are being used as a means of discouraging foreign companies from providing cross-border services. Is the Commission planning to assess the compatibility of the amendment to the Austrian act on wage and social dumping with EU law?