

**Question for written answer E-000615/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Question marks over the European system of road cabotage

The European road cabotage system allows road haulage companies to employ drivers from low-wage EU countries to make deliveries all over Europe, putting drivers from countries in which wages are higher at a disadvantage.

This form of social dumping gives low-wage countries an edge and creates tension with higher-wage countries, in which tens of thousands of lorry driver jobs are disappearing, leading to unemployment, a drop in social security contributions and an increase in expenditure on benefits.

This situation, which is made possible – if not actively promoted – by the EU, is having a terrible effect on rail and river freight at a time when the sacrifices that the EU is prepared to make in order to cut greenhouse gas emissions suggest that the focus should actually be on expanding rail and river freight.

With the foregoing in mind, does Commissioner Bulc not take the view that not only is there a need for improved transport checks in the EU, but also, quite simply, for the system under which companies can engage in economically, socially and environmentally devastating social dumping to be brought to an end once and for all?