

**Question for written answer E-000903/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ole Christensen (S&D)**

Subject: Documentation requirements for foreign bus drivers and passenger transport operators in Austria

On 1 January 2017 Austria introduced new documentation requirements for foreign bus drivers and passenger transport operators carrying out any type of bus operations in Austria. The new documentation requirements mean that foreign bus companies now have to report and carry with them a five-page long form containing a variety of information about the trip and wage conditions. Additionally, each driver must bring an employment contract with a German translation, a payslip and an A1 form, and provide proof that the company pays its driver the wages.

The new documentation requirements seem disproportionate. The requirements are so extensive that they could cause foreign bus companies to conclude that it is not profitable to transport people into Austria. The same requirements may impede freedom of movement, which is guaranteed under Article 45 of the Treaty on European Union. The strict Austrian documentation requirements follow requirements in France and Germany, among others.

1. Is the Commission aware of the new Austrian practices, and if so, will the Commission reprove the Austrian authorities for its unnecessarily strict requirements?
2. What will the Commission do to harmonise EU rules with a view to ensuring freedom of movement? Will it, for example, curb excessive controls?