

EN  
E-000366/2019  
Answer given by Mr Avramopoulos  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(16.5.2019)

The Commission is aware of the difficulties experienced by the European commercial road transport sector because of stowaways hidden amongst the cargo of trucks in an attempt to cross the borders illegally.

The maintenance of law and order as well as the safeguarding of internal security fall within the primary responsibility of the Member States, as stated in Article 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

The Commission is not aware of the details of the case the Honourable Member refers to, but does note that the French authorities have opened a judicial case to investigate the incident with the intention of identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators. While the Commission does not have statistics on the number of attacks on drivers and their lorries at its disposal, it is aware of the general increase in incidents (theft and intrusion) as documented by the recent study on the safe and secure parking places for trucks<sup>1</sup>. According to that study 75% of incidents take place in non-secured parking areas.

Recognising the challenges faced by the road haulage sector, the EU Action Plan on migrant smuggling<sup>2</sup> included a commitment to work with the sector and identify concrete support measures. In this context, in May 2018, the Commission launched an online resource for the use of drivers, owners and operators of road freight vehicles. It provides users with a comprehensive reference toolkit to assist in securing their vehicles including from the risk of hidden irregular migrants. The resource was developed and designed in close collaboration between the Commission, Member States and representatives of the road haulage sector, including freight companies and industry organisations. Over 2 000 users have been recorded in its first 6 months of operation. Moreover, as a follow-up to the study on safe and secure parking places for trucks, the Commission has put into place an expert group and envisages to contribute to the funding of parking areas.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/studies/road\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/studies/road_en)

<sup>2</sup> COM(2015) 285.