

**Question for written answer E-001673/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Fulvio Martusciello (PPE)

Subject: Law 12/2019 governing private hire vehicles

Law 12/2019, laying down the rules governing private hire vehicles (PHV) and introduced to amend Law 21/1992, appears to have many unlawful aspects. This law, indeed, appears to be in stark contrast with the liberalisation of the road passenger transport business, since, on the contrary, it worsens the PHV rules, subjecting them to constraints which make it almost impossible to operate in the business. The rules are having an abnormal impact on competition, given that they restrict the pursuit of the professional activity to the province comprising the municipality which grants the authorisation; they make it compulsory to return the vehicle, at the end of the day, to the garage being used by the carrier, thereby making it difficult for people to book services; they require operators to depart from the garage for any journey booked by a potential client, making it impossible to provide same-day services outside the area of the garage, even if those services depend on regular contracts. All this is leading to an inevitable increase in fares and a reduction of choice for users, who are thus, in actual fact, being artificially pushed towards taxi services.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

- 1) Does the law in question not run counter to the principles relating to freedom to engage in economic activities?
- 2) Does it not distort competition, which is a prerequisite for achieving a free and dynamic internal market?