

**Question for written answer P-006050/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Claudia Schmidt (PPE)

Subject: Plans of Germany's Federal Transport Minister for introducing road tolls

In recent weeks, scepticism as to whether Germany's plans for introducing road tolls are compatible with the ban on discrimination against citizens of the Union has grown further in Member States bordering on Germany.

One of the Commission's aims is to create an effective trans-European road network in order to increase competitiveness throughout the Union, generate stronger growth and promote job creation. The creation of this network is being cofinanced, inter alia, with Union funds, i.e. drawing on tax revenue from the whole EU.

The toll which Federal Transport Minister Dobrindt now seeks to introduce will apply to all citizens of the Union, but those of them whose vehicles are registered and therefore taxed in Germany will enjoy a rebate on the toll in the form of a cut in national tax.

How well is it possible to reconcile the guiding principle underlying a trans-European infrastructure which is cofinanced by European funds and the levying of a national toll in conjunction with a rebate to nationals through the national tax system?

Will the Commission in future promote uniform European rules on the levying of tolls on the trans-European road network?

Special rates for nationals were banned by the EU Directive on freedom of services, under which all EU citizens must be able to receive services on the same terms in every Member State.

What view does the Commission take of the possible knock-on effects of Germany's toll plans in the form of potential imitation of Germany's approach, in the light of the ban on discrimination between EU citizens in the Member States?