Question for written answer P-009477/2014 to the Commission Rule 130 Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Fair competition in the taxi sector

The USA-based taxi company Uber launched its service in Denmark on 19 November 2014. Uber's concept is an alternative to conventional taxi services with professional drivers, who in Denmark require a taxi licence in accordance with Law No 1039 of 8 October 2009.

As part of its Danish operation Uber is offering a luxury car service, which in Denmark requires a permit from the local authority. Uber is also offering a 'ride-sharing' programme. The Danish Transport Authority maintains that this should be treated in the same way as a taxi service, for which a licence is required. On these grounds the Transport Authority has reported Uber to the police.

The former competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes was very critical of the Belgian court's decision to ban Uber. With that in mind, can the Commission confirm that any legal measures against Uber seeking to counteract unlawful and unfair competition in the taxi sector are entirely compatible with EU law?

1040976.EN PE 543.269