

**Question for written answer P-002242/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 - public service obligations

The Finnish Government is renewing the national law relating to public transport services, in the framework given by Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007. The wording of Article 1, paragraph 1, thereof is unclear and allows of multiple interpretations.

Article 1, paragraph 1, reads as follows:

'To this end, this Regulation lays down the conditions under which competent authorities, when imposing or contracting for public service obligations, compensate public service operators for costs incurred and/or grant exclusive rights in return for the discharge of public service obligations.'

Which word – 'and' or 'or' – takes precedence in this context? Does the article actually mean that:

- a. competent authorities, when imposing or contracting for public service obligations, compensate public service operators for costs incurred and (hence automatically) grant exclusive rights in return for the discharge of public service obligations, or
- b. competent authorities, when imposing or contracting for public service obligations, compensate public service operators for costs incurred (but this does not necessarily mean that they as a consequence grant exclusive rights in return for the discharge of public service obligations)?

Or is it up to the Member State to choose the interpretation it prefers?