

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2788/00
by Jo Leinen (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination against EU citizens

A German national was stopped on 12 June 2000 near Monbéliard (France) because he was transporting a radar detection device which was not however switched on (this is confirmed in writing by the police officer carrying out the check).

Irrespective of whether proceedings involving a fine or prosecution were to be instituted, the German national was not allowed to continue his journey with his vehicle unless he paid immediately an on-the-spot cash deposit of FRF 10 000 (the maximum possible penalty).

Does the Commission take the view that this has to be seen as a curtailment of the free movement of persons guaranteed by Article 14(2) of the EC Treaty and constitutes inadmissible discrimination against an EU citizen since the payment of such on-the-spot deposits is not required in France from its own nationals?