

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0290/02
by Christoph Konrad (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Systematic breach of equal treatment of foreign bus companies in France caused by the 'blue licence' and heavy fines

1. How does the Commission view the fact that it is compulsory for German bus companies to carry a special permit known as the 'blue licence' when travelling in France, whereas French bus companies are not required to carry a special permit when travelling either in France or Germany? What is the Commission's reaction to this breach of the principle of equal treatment?
2. Does the Commission accept the current practice whereby the French police take buses off the road if they do not have a 'blue licence' or if their licence has expired? Furthermore, what is the Commission's view, in the light of the principle of proportionality and the prohibition of disproportionate measures, of the fact that a German bus, whose four-year licence had expired by nine days was allowed to continue its journey only after payment of 5000 FF?
3. How does the Commission view the fact that following this payment, the bus company concerned has a court case pending, the outcome of which will probably be a fine amounting to the same sum?