

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2115/02  
by Janelly Fourtou (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Regulating transportation of human remains

The principles of free movement of goods, capital and persons have been laid down in the European Union's treaties and subsequently guaranteed by the adoption of secondary legislation. However, free movement of persons is not totally harmonised, given that there are no rules harmonising the transportation of human remains through the Member States of the European Communities.

A growing number of European citizens live in Member States other than their countries of origin. This is due to three migratory phenomena: many people work in a different country, levels of tourism are constantly increasing and, most importantly, pensioners move permanently into retirement homes in neighbouring countries. These phenomena are even more marked in border regions.

Why is a zinc coffin not compulsory on the territory of a Member State, but compulsory as soon as the coffin has to go over a border?

Does the Commission intend to legislate on this problem?