

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6352/08  
by Sylwester Chruszcz (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Polish place names on road signs in Germany

A report on the standardisation and classification of the trans-European road network, drawn up by DG Transport's Committee on Transport Infrastructure in 1994, recommends that place names should be indicated in two languages. However, the Convention on Road Signs and Signals recommends that priority should be given to the language of the country in which the place referred to is located.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, names of places located in Poland are written first in German (e.g. Stettin) and only afterwards - in brackets and in smaller letters - in Polish (e.g. Szczecin). Is this practice consistent with the provisions in force in the European Union? Should not place names on bilingual road signs in Germany be given first in the language of the country in which the places in question are located?

I hope that the Commission will ensure that road signs in Germany are brought into line with European standards, since, as my constituents have frequently pointed out, this problem represents a serious obstacle to people travelling through Germany.