

**Question for written answer E-8959/2010  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE) and Luis de Grandes Pascual (PPE)**

Subject: Information from the Portuguese government about the introduction of motorway tolls in northern Portugal

On 15 October 2010 the new Portuguese toll system came into force on some motorways in northern Portugal, an area which borders on the Autonomous Community of Galicia (Spain). These two regions have historically maintained close links in terms of economic activities, services and tourism, and these are now suffering disruption. A good example of the close relationship between the two regions is the existence of a Galicia-Northern Portugal European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, one of the first to be established in the EU.

According to Directive 1999/62/EC the Commission must be informed of any new toll system, to ensure its compliance with this directive, particularly with regard to reductions, exemptions, discounts, possible discrimination between residents and non-residents, restrictions on the free movement of services and distortion of competition between companies due to location.

Has the Commission been contacted by the Portuguese Government about this new toll system? If, as seems to be the case, the Commission has not received prior notification from the Portuguese Government, what does it intend to do? Has it already asked the Portuguese Government to provide all the relevant information?