

**Question for written answer E-006918/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Lorry driving bans

As a result of the heat waves that Europe has been experiencing, lorry driving bans have been imposed on account of the damage such vehicles could cause to road surfaces. Regrettably, however, the current provisions regarding bans on vehicle movements conflict with each other and it is national agencies that decide when to impose a ban.

The situation regarding cross-border haulage is particularly complicated. The obligatory halts that such bans impose upon drivers mean that they are often forced to break their journeys. Then, when the ban is lifted and lorries are once again allowed to continue their journeys, other countries along the route introduce bans and drivers are once again forced to come to a halt. This can extend the length of journeys by a number of days and have an adverse impact on drivers.

In view of this situation, is the Commission planning to harmonise the rules and introduce a common European system, or is it looking at other arrangements?