

Question for written answer E-002254/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Peter van Dalen (ECR)

Subject: Use of Filipino workers as temporary agency workers by European road hauliers

Last week, the Dutch magazine Truckstar reported that a German/Latvian road haulage business was using Filipino workers for international road haulage in Europe¹. According to the business concerned, this is necessary because of an acute shortage of staff, but in view of current unemployment rates in Europe, that is implausible. It seems primarily to be a fresh attempt by irresponsible entrepreneurs to cut a business's employment overheads, at the expense of employees.

1. Is the Commission aware of the report that a German/Latvian road haulage business is using Filipino workers for international road haulage?
2. Does the Commission know of other cases in which road hauliers are using workers from outside the EU as temporary agency workers for international road haulage in Europe?
3. Does the Commission consider that this legal arrangement accords with European law?
4. Does the Commission consider it undesirable for such legal arrangements to be instituted in order to reduce a haulier's employment overheads? If not, why not?
5. Does the Commission consider that workers in international road haulage are unjustly disadvantaged by the resort to such temporary agency arrangements using workers from outside the EU?
6. Does the Commission agree that equal wages for equal work are an essential precondition for creating genuinely equal conditions on the European internal transport market? If not, why not?
7. Will the Commission assign the principle of equal wages for equal work priority in the forthcoming revision of Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 on access to the European road haulage market (cabotage)²? If not, why not?

¹ <http://www.truckstar.nl/nieuws/detail/lets-transportbedrijf-huurt-filipijnse-chauffeurs-in/>

² Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 on common rules for access to the international road haulage market.