

**Question for written answer E-002737/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Discriminatory treatment of Greek-registered commercial motor vehicles by the Turkish authorities

By its decision 2010/945, published in the Official Government Gazette of the Republic of Turkey on 14 October 2010 under number 27729, the Turkish government limited the exemption from excise duty to a maximum of 200 litres of fuel solely in respect of commercial vehicles and private containers bearing Greek registration plates. In that decision, the Turkish government invokes the principle of reciprocity as regards the reduction applied to the amount of duty-free fuel that commercial vehicles fitted with Turkish plates may carry in their normal tanks when entering Greece.

However, the principle of reciprocity does not apply in the present case. The Greek government in the Ministerial Decision in question, namely D18A5017560/2010, published in the Government Gazette of 10 May 2010, Volume II, No 610, does not apply such a restriction only to commercial motor vehicles transporting goods bearing Turkish number plates, but, as the title of the decision and its contents indicate, to all vehicles entering Greece by road from third countries to the European Union (i.e. Albania, FYROM and Turkey). It makes no reference to the country in which the vehicles are registered.

This action by the Turkish government clearly constitutes discriminatory treatment of commercial motor vehicles bearing Greek registration plates.

Given the status of Turkey as a candidate country for accession to the European Union and the Association Agreement of 1963, known as the 'Ankara Agreement', and in particular Article 9 which introduces the principle of non-discrimination in relations between the European Union (the then EEC) and Turkey, will the Commission say:

- Does this act of direct discrimination by the Turkish authorities in imposing such a restriction solely to commercial motor vehicles bearing Greek number plates violate EU law?

- If this act is indeed a violation of EU law, what does it intend to do (or has it done) to address this violation?