

**Question for written answer E-011142/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Dominique Riquet (PPE)**

**Subject:** Training requirements set out by Directives 2003/59/EC and 2008/68/EC in the road transport sector

With the aim of ensuring a high level of road safety, Directive 2003/59/EC introduces in Annex I, among others, compulsory periodic training for the drivers of certain road vehicles. Furthermore, Directive 2008/68/EC on the inland transport of dangerous goods includes requirements regarding periodic training for drivers transporting dangerous goods in particular. In practice, the majority of Member States implement the two Directives separately, which creates training obligations that do not meet the specific requirements of the dangerous goods road transport sectors.

This is the case for local distributors of heating oil for example, who have to undertake training on freight safety which is not applicable to tankers. This creates a financial and administrative burden, particularly for micro and small businesses, through training that is not adapted to the activities associated with these jobs, without contributing to improved road safety. Only a limited number of Member States are implementing these Directives in a flexible manner, adapting the training to the specific requirements of each sector and meeting via the training the requirements imposed by the two Directives.

As regards the implementation of Directive 2003/59/EC and Directive 2008/68/EC, can the Commission specify whether Member States have a degree of flexibility to adapt the training required by the two Directives to the needs of specific sectors, provided the training meets the criteria laid down in the Directives? Are Member States permitted to count the ADR training course towards the 35 hours of compulsory training that Directive 2003/59/EC requires?

Given that there is a review underway of Directive 2003/59/EC, does the Commission intend to offer the possibility of the training hours that Directive 2008/68/EC requires counting towards the 35 hours of compulsory training set out in Annex I of Directive 2003/59/EC, provided they relate to safety and are relevant for the specific business activity sector?