

**Question for written answer E-002157/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Justina Vitkauskaite Bernard (ALDE)**

Subject: Transfer of corpses of EU nationals within the EU

Free movement of persons and a common internal market based on competition are fundamental principles implemented by the EU. However, it is no secret that when an EU national temporarily goes abroad to work, he or she might experience distress or could even suddenly die unexpectedly. To my knowledge, the transfer of corpses within Europe is at present governed by the 1973 Strasbourg Convention on the Transfer of Corpses (ETS 80), signed by the member states of the Council of Europe. However, EU nationals generally still face incredible obstacles when transferring the corpses of loved ones from one EU country to another. Recently, I was approached by a Lithuanian family whose son, a Lithuanian national, had been killed in France. France stated that the corpse could be transferred to the German or Italian border only by its appropriate transportation company and indicated its rates, which were almost five times as high as those of the corresponding Lithuanian company. The family were told that unless they used the French company's services, the corpse would not be returned. This is a flagrant violation not only of the EU's free movement of persons, but also of the principles embodied in the EU internal market and in competition.

Has the Commission prepared a regulation or other EU-level legislation whereby all EU Member States would be subject to clear and uniform rules on the transfer of EU nationals' corpses, thus ensuring free movement of persons while safeguarding the EU principles underlying the free internal market?