

**Question for written answer E-005354/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Astrid Lulling (PPE)

Subject: Free movement of goods and persons

In my written question E-013574-13 I had requested information on the requirement for Belgian residents to drive with a Belgian registration plate or else face severe penalties, including having their vehicle impounded by the police.

The Commission replied that the Belgian authorities were in the process of aligning their law to EU law, but only with regard to the loan of a vehicle registered in another Member State.

However, there have been a considerable and growing number of checks (both by the police and customs) resulting in heavy fines and the payment of taxes simply because the driver is travelling in a car registered in another Member State. According to the Court of Justice (van Putten (C 578/10)), a Member State may request the registration of vehicles to be used mainly on the territory of that Member State on a permanent basis. However, the Belgian authorities are using the mere fact of residence as a criterion. Therefore, any car that is used in Belgium by a Belgian resident is supposed to be registered in Belgium. However, this leads to absurd situations for cars that are used only occasionally in Belgium for reasons of dual residence, especially by people who have to stay in Brussels for meetings at EU institutions, including Members of the European Parliament.

1. Can the Commission enquire about the timetable for the amendment of the Belgian law to bring into line with EU law?
2. Is the Commission prepared to act proactively and look into the other barriers to free movement in the internal market?
3. Is the Commission willing to propose legislation to guarantee mobility within the Union for professional and personal reasons and to simplify the registration of a car in another Member State?