

**Question for written answer E-001190/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Gianluca Buonanno (ENF)**

Subject: Transport services: tickets not purchasable using cash

Many service providers in the field of transport, such as short-, medium- or long-distance bus services, sell travel tickets for those journeys online. This means that people who wish to travel, but who have not bought a ticket online and/or do not have a credit card, are unable to purchase a travel ticket directly from the driver or from a ticket office.

One of the main bus lines between Brussels and the low-cost airport at Charleroi, used by thousands of EU citizens in Belgium, serves as just one example of this. Sales staff refuse cash and will only accept payment by credit card or travel tickets that have been pre-purchased online. This is already common practice among many transport companies in Europe.

Does the Commission consider this refusal to sell services for cash to be compatible with current EU legislation?

Given that the issuing of bank and credit cards obviously involves a cost for users, does the Commission not think it appropriate to encourage the use of cash rather than to allow sales practices of dubious legitimacy that discourage its use?