

Question for written answer E-001515/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Agnes Jongerius (S&D)

Subject: Cyprus route scheme: fictitious arrangements

In November 2013, the Dutch national insurance provider Sociale Verzekeringsbank (SVB) found the 'Cyprus route' scheme used by the company AFMB Ltd. to be illegal. Drivers wishing to work for this haulage company ought to pay social security contributions in the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, the company has adopted the form of a temporary employment agency, and is persisting in its practice of taking on drivers from various Member States under Cypriot employment conditions, who as a result are poorly insured and lack protection.

AFMB Ltd. also advertises the Cyprus route to other companies as a means of avoiding social security contributions: 'by putting their Dutch drivers on AFMB Limited's Cyprus route scheme, transport companies can reduce their wage costs by 30% and thus withstand competition from eastern Europe, while still fully complying with European legislation'.

1. Is the Commission aware of the activities of AFMB Ltd. and its use of the Cyprus route to avoid making social security contributions?
2. Is the Commission prepared to investigate the Cyprus route?
3. When will the Commission introduce measures to tackle fictitious arrangements of this kind which drive down working conditions and distort competition in the haulage sector?