

Question for written answer E-002928/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Kris Peeters (PPE)

Subject: Harmonisation of low-emission zones

With the aim of improving air quality in cities, more than 250 different low-emission zones have been introduced in the various EU Member States. The approach, standards, periods of application and penalties vary from Member State to Member State, but also from region to region or even from city to city within a single region. This has created a patchwork of different vignettes, emission standards and monitoring models. For example, in some areas cars from other Member States have to be registered at least 24 hours in advance, while in others they are readily permitted to enter without registration. This naturally creates confusion for motorists and for commercial passenger and goods transport operators alike, and significantly harms the internal market.

In 2011, the Commission indicated its intention to streamline this profusion of low-emission zones. Unfortunately, all that has happened since then is that the problem has become more serious. How will the Commission address this issue?

Does the Commission believe that only additional transparency is sufficient or that there should be some harmonisation of types of area, registration procedures, day passes, etc.?

Is a system involving harmonised zones (categories A to E based on a European standard), under which cities themselves could decide on the periods and areas covered, an option being considered by the Commission?