

**Question for written answer E-003053/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Caroline Nagtegaal** (Renew)

Subject: European Union ban on using apps behind the wheel

Holding an electrical device in the hand while driving has been forbidden in the Netherlands since 1 July 2019<sup>1</sup>. Since 1 October 2019 it has been becoming increasingly easy for the Dutch police to track offenders. Special cameras are making it easier and easier for the police to catch drivers using apps and/or making calls on their mobile phone and to fine them EUR 240<sup>2</sup>. Scientific research has shown previously that a ban on using apps while driving only makes sense when this can also be properly enforced<sup>3</sup>. A solution to this problem now exists with the advent of smart cameras.

1. What is the Commission's opinion of this ban in the Netherlands on using apps while driving and is the Commission prepared to present a proposal on making this an EU-wide ban?
2. What is the Commission's view on the experiment with smart cameras to improve enforcement in cases when an electrical device is being held while driving and does the Commission see any way this could be rolled out across the European Union?
3. Does the Commission see any way in which smart cameras could be used to make enforcement easier not just in cases such as using apps while driving, but also, employed in conjunction with a smart tachograph for example, with reference to drivers' rest and driving times?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/verkeersveiligheid/vraag-en-antwoord/mag-ik-bellen-in-de-auto>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/nederland/artikel/4867361/camera-controle-appen-achter-stuur-auto-politie-boete-240-euro>

<sup>3</sup> <https://demonitor.kro-ncrv.nl/artikelen/twee-jaar-gevangenis-voor-appen-achter-het-stuur-is-dat-realistisch>