

Question for written answer E-001169/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Mobility in rural areas

In the European Union in general and France in particular, the car is the most common means of transport in rural areas. In France, 93% of journeys are made by car, as opposed to 80% in towns of more than 100 000 inhabitants and 64% in the Paris region.

According to the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, although rural areas account for 70% of mainland France's total area and two thirds of its municipalities, only 22.5% of the population lives in such areas.

Aside from the risks of further ostracising an isolated, deprived population, mobility in rural areas also raises the issue of access to essential services since rural people have been neglected in favour of urban dwellers in this regard, forcing them to make longer, more expensive and more polluting journeys.

Given that mobility in rural areas is a major economic, environmental and societal challenge, how does the Commission, given its responsibilities for transport and cohesion under Articles 4(2)(g) and 174-178 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, intend to bring our modes of transport into line with the new ecological model while ensuring rural inhabitants have access to essential public services?