

**Question for written answer E-002756/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tom Berendsen (PPE)**

Subject: Unfair competition from third countries in the road transport sector

Under the 2020 Mobility Package, new rules have been introduced in the EU road transport sector in a bid to ensure fair competition within the European Union. At the same time, EU hauliers are also having to share the European market with third-country competitors. Under the Mobility Package, EU vehicles are required to return to the Member State of residence every eight weeks and drivers every four weeks. These new rules applicable to EU transport companies are intended to prevent systematic cabotage and cross-trade and improve working conditions for drivers. They do not, however, apply to transport undertakings from third countries, giving them a competitive edge over their European counterparts and, effectively tilting the playing field in their favour.

1. In general, how does the Commission view the current situation in this respect and what measures are being envisaged to ensure fair competition on the European market between EU and third-country hauliers?
2. Is it aware that competition in the road transport sector is being distorted by the fact that third-country hauliers are exempt from rules governing the mandatory return of vehicles and drivers?
3. What action will it take to remedy matters and when will it be able to level out the playing field?