Question for written answer E-003757/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 561/2006

Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 lays down a common set of EU rules establishing the maximum driving times per day and per fortnight for all lorry drivers, as well as the minimum daily and weekly rest periods.

The daily driving time must not exceed 9 hours (or 10 hours no more than twice per week). The daily rest period must be at least 11 hours (or 9 hours no more than 3 times per week). Where there are at least two drivers in the vehicle, a driver can be on duty for up to 21 hours out of every 30 hours, with a 9-hour rest period.

Many factors can impact drivers, such as accidents, issues with the cargo (goods not ready, long periods of availability spent waiting for the cargo) and the value of the transported goods. Drivers also have to remain in the vehicle to ensure its safety and guard against any theft or damage.

Can the Commission say whether it believes that the multi-manning arrangements in Regulation (EC) 561/2006 should be amended so that the second driver may be considered on a rest period, in order to optimise the use of the 90 weekly hours of the two drivers?