

**Question for written answer E-004521/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Shortage of professional road transport drivers in the EU

The European Road Haulers Association (the UETR) reported recently that another 400 000 lorry drivers are needed to meet current labour market needs in the sector. Training costs, precarious conditions and the need for continued professional experience lie behind this problem. This situation favours bad practices such as those detected recently in Lithuania with workers from outside the EU employed in conditions of semi-slavery. The mobility package has brought in measures to combat precariousness that should now be supplemented by aid programmes to help interested parties with payment of training costs, the digitisation of this process – which would bring costs down – more monitoring to stop dishonest contacts and a drive to develop service areas that make for better working conditions.

1. Given the impact this may have on free movement of goods, is there a plan at EU level to address this problem?
2. Could this situation push forward financial support for driver training and the development of training processes that do not require in-person attendance?
3. What demand is there in Member States for aid to improve service areas along the main TEN-T corridors?