

**Question for written answer E-005170/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Reduction of axle loads and mass limits for the transport of abnormal loads in Italy

In Italy, during consideration of the bill for the conversion of decree law (DL) No 121/2021 in the Transport Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, an amendment adopted incorporated into the text some significant changes to the rules governing abnormal road transport, set out in the Highway Code. The amendment provides for a reduction in axle loads and mass limits for abnormal loads, a result of which is an increase in the number of lorries required for current transport operations, while creating difficulties for a number of manufacturing sectors (steel, large concrete beams, stone blocks) which will have to face higher transport costs. Trade associations in the manufacturing sector are denouncing the real risk of an unjustified increase in the cost of handling abnormal loads, without any real road safety benefit.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission not agree that the increasing demand for lorries, not least in the light of the shortage of licensed road hauliers, could cause environmental damage by increasing greenhouse gas emissions?
2. Does it not think that new burdens and constraints on companies in strategic sectors, such as the steel sector, are likely to slow down the economic recovery that the Union has set itself as an objective?