

Question for written answer E-002856/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Luděk Niedermayer (PPE)

Subject: Safety standards to ensure the protective function of guardrails

In the context of the tragedies on Czech motorways in which human lives were lost (a lorry crashed through a guardrail and hit a car going in the opposite direction), I consider it important to clarify the role that guardrail safety features should play in ensuring road safety. I would therefore like to ask the following:

1. Are there common standards in the EU for the safety features of guardrail types and, if so, to what level of safety are they set?
2. If these common standards do not exist, are there at least overviews of what standards individual countries are applying? Are there sufficiently detailed statistics to chart the impact of such measures on the numbers of the most serious accidents, and in particular the numbers of tragic accidents where, for example, vehicles crash through motorway guardrails and collide at high speed? In the context of the various safety strategies, is there at least an interest in sharing best practices?
3. Given that on motorways, safety features in cars (which are being extended thanks to EU decisions) and quality construction can further reduce the number of accidents, have analyses been carried out of which measures are most effective in terms of protecting health and human life? If so, how is the Commission encouraging countries to introduce them?