

**Question for written answer E-000158/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Directive 2018/645 on the driver qualification card and conversion of the qualification for non-EU nationals

Directive 2018/645 allows non-EU drivers to prove their professional qualification and training (CPC) by means of a certificate bearing code '95' that they have obtained in a Member State.

Drivers who are nationals of non-EU countries do not have this qualification, even if they have an equivalent qualification issued by a third country, simply because of a conversion issue.

This means that non-EU nationals who could be employed in companies as professional drivers cannot be recruited, thereby undermining their right of entry into the European Union.

The IRU (International Road Transport Union) estimates that there is a shortage of around 400 000 professional drivers in the road transport sector in the largest EU countries.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the situation?
2. Does it think that it would be possible for an applicant to start driving under a C or CE licence and subsequently obtain the CPC qualification?
3. Are there any ongoing talks with non-EU countries on recognition and conversion of the driver qualification card (CPC)?

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