

**Question for written answer E-000824/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (PPE)

Subject: Bus and coach safety and fire risks

In recent years, many bus and coach passengers have died after the vehicles they were travelling in caught fire, notably in the commune of Puisseguin in France.

These deaths were the result of crashes in which the electrical box and the fuel tank, placed side by side at the front of the vehicles, were destroyed. Yet the front of the vehicle is the area most likely to be impacted in a crash. In a head-on collision, the combination of fuel, electrical resistors and oxygen creates the ideal conditions for a fire to start.

Amendments to UN Regulations Nos 107 and 118, adopted in March 2021, have improved safety measures in buses and coaches in the event of a fire. These rules will apply to new vehicles from September 2023 and to all vehicles put into service from September 2025. However, no measures have been introduced to prevent fires resulting from the factors outlined above.

In light of the foregoing, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it intend to introduce specific inspections for buses and coaches (categories M2 and M3) under Directive 2014/47/EU¹?
2. Is it planning to amend Regulation (EU) 2019/2144?

Submitted: 9.3.2023

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0047>