

Question for written answer E-001342/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Requirement of German-language skills when driving certain vehicles in Germany

Paragraph 145 of the general administrative provisions governing the German highway code states that, in order to ensure the safe and orderly flow of traffic, drivers of certain heavy-goods vehicles must be able to communicate adequately in German or, failing that, must have a passenger present in the vehicle throughout the journey who can. This new requirement is being imposed on transportation businesses for vehicles whose drivers must be able to understand administrative provisions in German.

A vehicle belonging to a Belgian transportation business was prevented from continuing its journey by the police during a roadside inspection in Germany because the Belgian driver spoke only French.

1. As drivers who are not sufficiently proficient in the German language are no longer allowed to transport goods in Germany and transportation businesses may therefore no longer be able to offer their services in that country, are the German authorities potentially acting in a discriminatory manner by imposing this requirement?
2. Is this new requirement proportionate to the aim pursued by this administrative provision?
3. When it comes to international transportation, would it not be more proportionate to require the driver or accompanying person(s) in the vehicle to have a sufficient command of the English language?

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