ORAL QUESTION H-0367/03 for Question Time at the part-session in July 2003 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Herman Vermeer to the Commission

Subject: Introduction in Germany of a kilometrage toll on heavy goods vehicles

Is the European Commission aware of the practical problems that will arise when Germany introduces a kilometrage toll on heavy goods vehicles on 1 August 2003? Non-German haulage companies in particular will not have available a sufficient number of the required On-Board Units and the associated kilometre-recording devices. Without such equipment, rapid calculation of tolls and transit through Germany will be impossible. Does the European Commission intend to take up with the German authorities the issue of this currently discriminatory practice of the incorporation of kilometre-recording devices and On-Board Units?

Furthermore, is the European Commission still prepared, as announced earlier by Mrs De Palacio, Member of the Commission, to check the per-kilometre rates that the German Government intends to introduce against the revenue yield that is required to maintain simply the German road network?

Tabled: 28.05.2003

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