

ORAL QUESTION H-0226/08

for Question Time at the part-session in April 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Nickolay Mladenov
to the Commission

Subject: Tolls for crossing the Ruse-Giurgiu bridge between Bulgaria and Romania

With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU on 1 January 2007, the border between the two countries became an internal border of the EU. This border plays an important role in allowing the free movement of people, goods and services between the two Member States.

Unfortunately, there is only one bridge (Ruse-Giurgiu) over the 350-km river border between Bulgaria and Romania, which hinders contacts between citizens on either side of the Danube.

At the same time, both countries are continuing to impose tolls on all vehicles crossing the bridge, which hinders free movement between the two new Member States. In many of its judgments, the European Court of Justice has ruled in favour of protecting freedom of movement from tolls that may have a negative impact on the internal market.

Is the Commission aware that such tolls are still payable in order to cross the bridge over the Danube (Ruse-Giurgiu)?

What does the Commission intend to do to remove this obstacle to the smooth running of the internal market, and when?

Tabled: 14.03.2008

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