

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2694/03  
by Mathieu Grosch (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Introduction of motorway charging in Germany

Following the Commission's most recent decision, I note that the key element in the introduction of German motorway charging has not been resolved.

It has been confirmed by all the players concerned and by German ministers that OBUs (on-board units) are the cheapest and most effective means of paying motorway tolls. It has been proved that the German Government is unable to meet the demand from haulage firms, which constitutes distortion of the market and a barrier to fair competition.

Even worse, Toll Collect has just confirmed to a Belgian firm that it cannot fit units to more than 75% of the firm's vehicles.

On the basis of reliable sources, I can confirm that many of the units made available to hauliers, including Belgian and Dutch firms, are faulty. Added to this is the fact that some German firms will supposedly have units fitted to all of their vehicles.

Can the Commission carry out an investigation into Toll Collect's inability to meet the demand from European haulage firms and into the serious complaint made by the sector, to the effect that some firms are placed at an advantage over others?