

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3339/09
by Romana Jordan Cizelj (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: The vignette system in Slovenia

The vignette system which the Slovenian government introduced in 2008 as a means of paying to use motorways is currently the subject of a heated debate in Slovenia. Information published in the media and the Commission press release of 2 October 2008 (IP/08/1446) suggest that the vignette system in Slovenia may discriminate against transit users of Slovenian motorways. This is apparently the reason why the Commission has frozen € 38 million of cohesion funds for construction of the Slivnica – Draženci motorway section.

In seeking to clarify for Slovenian citizens what is true and what is not, I have a number of questions. In view of the approaching European elections, at which we are striving to achieve maximum participation and the return of citizens' trust in the EU, something that is undoubtedly connected with access to information, please could you answer the following questions as soon as possible.

1. How does the Commission decide whether a vignette system in a Member State is discriminatory? What is the legal basis on which that decision is made?
2. When did the Commission receive an answer from the Slovenian government to the letter of formal notice?
3. What further steps has the Commission decided to take following receipt of the response to the letter of formal notice?
4. What was the reason for freezing the cohesion funds for construction of the Slivnica – Draženci motorway section?
5. What would the Slovenian government have to do to make it possible to draw on EU funds again for the Slivnica – Draženci motorway section?