

**Question for written answer P-010523/2010  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Carl Haglund (ALDE)**

Subject: Practice in driving heavy articulated vehicles in another EU Member State

Various places in the Ostrobothnia (Österbotten) region of Finland provide training for drivers of heavy articulated vehicles and buses. A large number of transport companies in Österbotten specialise in international transport, which means this instruction has a major focus on international transport. For many years, it has been possible to practise driving in the neighbouring countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Since autumn 2009, it has not been possible to practise driving in Sweden. It is reported that the Swedish police authorities have referred to EU directives on professional qualifications (2003/59/EC) and driving licences (91/439/EEC, replaced by 2006/126/EC as from January 2013) which has led to a tightening and stricter interpretation of the national rules. This presents a specific disadvantage for instruction purposes, as it reduces the opportunities to practice in real transport situations, but also constitutes a new border restriction in the internal market. Given that strengthening the internal market and eliminating bottlenecks is one of the priorities of the current Commission, and that the opportunity to practise driving abroad is important for export-based and outward-looking businesses,

1. Is the Commission aware of the effect these directive have had on the internal market?
2. Is the Commission prepared to investigate the matter and propose rules to encourage free movement across borders in the internal market?